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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers' Meeting Begins

LD0206205691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council began their 39th council session in the Meridian Hotel in al-Khubar this evening.

Damascus Declaration Signatories' Split Noted

PM2805152291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 May 91 pp 1-2

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Differences Between 'Damascus Declaration' States on Gulf Security Arrangements"]

[Text] Some Gulf states have backtracked on some provisions of the Damascus Declaration signed by Egypt, Syria, and the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. An informed Egyptian diplomatic source has confirmed that two Gulf states have reservations regarding some aspects of the security arrangements. The source said that the disagreement over security arrangements is mainly due to the fact that two Gulf states want Iran and Turkey to participate in the security arrangements.

The source added that all points of disagreement will be discussed at the next meeting of the eight Damascus Declaration signatories scheduled to take place in Riyadh before mid-June at experts level. The results of the meeting will then be submitted to the political leaderships of the eight states for study before the foreign ministers' meeting in July. The source confirmed that the economic section of the Damascus Declaration has not been discussed in detail yet. Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah will visit Cairo and Damascus soon for more consultations and an exchange of views on security arrangements for the Gulf region. The Gulf states are currently holding intensive contacts with the Syrian leadership to persuade it not to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

Jordanian Envoy Meets Arab League Secretary

NC2705175891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, received Nabih al-Nimr, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and permanent envoy to the Arab League, today. After the meeting, Ambassador al-Nimr stressed that the alienation between Egypt and Jordan will end soon. He said: We are heading toward a new stage, in which we will resume cooperation and coordination. He expressed his hope for a new stage that will boost cooperation between the two countries in the near future.

Responding to a question on reports about a possible visit to Cairo by King Husayn, al-Nimr said he does not rule out the possibility of King Husayn's making a tour of a number of Arab countries. He stressed that Jordan is always prepared to make any effort to unify Arab ranks. Referring to the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], he said that the ACC's activities are currently suspended, but it exists and none of its members asked to withdraw.

Egypt Deports Jordanians Arriving From Kuwait

PM2905111891 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 May 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Deportation of 21 Jordanians on Suspicion of Cooperation with Iraqi Forces"]

[Text] Cairo airport security authorities decided to deport 21 Jordanians and three Europeans as soon as they arrived at Cairo airport from Kuwait, following their deportation by the Kuwaiti authorities on suspicion of cooperation with the Iraqi forces during the Gulf crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on U.S. Part in Palestinian Suffering

JN2905053891 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 28 May 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has asked the U.S. Administration to adhere to the principles of international legitimacy and its resolutions on the Palestine question, foremost among which are those relating to the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the need for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and also for respecting and realizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar added that the U.S. Administration is politically and morally responsible for the continued sufferings of our Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

In a message he sent yesterday to the chairperson of the committee on the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable rights, on the occasion of the regional seminar on Palestine the committee is holding in Europe, which began in the Spanish capital yesterday and which will continue for four days, brother leader Abu-'Ammar affirmed that there can be no peace nor stability by circumventing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, as Palestine is the key to war and peace in the region.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar urged the committee members to discuss ways of securing international protection for our people in the occupied territories and implementing the international resolutions on Palestine.

'Arafat Adviser Welcomes Bush Initiative

JN0106142091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] The PLO has welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative, according to 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif. However, Abu-Sharif stressed that there is a contradiction between the U.S. initiative and the additional military aid Washington has decided to grant Israel.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace, Arab Relations

JN0206112291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Jun 91 p 13

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, identified by nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and "president of the state of Palestine", by Sa'd al-Silawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Silawi] Mr. President, the Gulf crisis had many repercussions on joint Arab action. In this context, do you think it is possibile to restore trust among the Arabs and clear the air?

['Arafat] First, I must point out that the Gulf crisis left deep wounds and great negative repercussions that no one can ignore or sidestep. However, the good ones in our Arab nation, who are many thank God, rushed to repair the Arab house, Arab relations, and Arab solidarity which was affected by the Gulf crisis and the recent war. It is not a coincidence that the Arab League rushed to convene at the level of representatives and later at the level of ministers with the attendance of all members, and elected a secretary general for the Arab League. The insistence to activate the Arab League to participate in restoring Arab unity is also not a coincidence. As is known to all, the PLO along with all the good ones in the Arab nation, are holding intensive contacts with all the Arab brothers. This has been crystallized in the new good coordination between the PLO and Jordan, and the opening of intensive dialogue with the brothers in Egypt, the brothers in Lebanon, and finally the brothers in Syria. Moreover, the Maghreb brothers through the recent Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] summit in Libya have honored Palestine by inviting me to attend this summit. This summit adopted a clear position on the Palestine question, and the unalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to return, self-determination, and establish the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO. This is in addition to the important AMU summit decision to contribute as a group in this unified Arab effort in order that this summit be an important and principle support for our Arab east and for the unity of Arab action at all levels.

Now the PLO has called for a five-party meeting that would include the Arab countries directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and which will be encompassed by the steps, measures, and meetings to discuss the international peace conference if all obstacles before holding this conference are overcome. I mean by this the Arab countries surrounding Israel, better known as the Arab frontline states: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the PLO.

[Al-Silawi] Has a date been fixed for this meeting, Mr. President?

['Arafat] So far, the four Arab countries have preliminarily agreed to attend the meeting. The meeting will be held after more consultations are held among them. We have, however, agreed on bilateral meetings and coordination which must continue between these five parties and the rest of the Arab states, of course on the basis of the resolutions of the Arab summits and international legitimacy.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, due to the Gulf crisis, the Arabs have lost many weapons including the weapon of the joint Arab position, accounts, the oil weapon, and military power. In light of this, do you think that a solution to the Palestine question will materialize? Do you think that the U.S. endeavor to establish peace is serious, especially following the huge aid the United States extended to Israel last week?

[Text] ['Arafat] You must know that had it not been for the boundless U.S. support on the economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and information level Israel would not be able to defy the international community's consensus, continue with its occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands, and with its crimes, massacres, and its human rights violations in the occupied territories, not to mention its recurrent aggression against southern Lebanon, and against the Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages.

While on the one hand there is President Bush's 6 March initiative on the exchange of territory for peace, the implementation of Resolution 242 and 338, the Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights, and Israeli security, points contained in the speech of the U.S. President and which were viewed as steps that have brought the U.S. stand closer to international legitimacy—an initiative which the PLO and the Arab countries viewed as positive—on the other hand, surprising aspects have emerged. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour has shown that the U.S. objective is to adopt a double-track policy that emphasizes the need to normalize Arab-Israeli relations with a Palestinian cover for this operation and for the double-track policy. U.S. no's have come closer to the Israeli no's which state no to an international conference, no to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, no to their independent state, and no to the PLO. At the same time, there has been an insistence on continuing to send Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and Ethiopia. The U.S. President took pride in that he had personally supervised the transportation of 16,500 falashas in 30 hours. This will help in swallowing up the land, and establishing settlements after confiscating lands in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. This shows that the United

States, which has been bragging about human rights, has ignored human rights in Palestine. The United States, which used the excuse of international legitimacy in the Gulf war, has ignored this legitimacy in Palestine. What is strange is that while the United States insisted on the literal implementation of the UN resolutions on the Gulf, it blames us and the Syrians for wanting to implement the content, not the full implementation of international resolutions. On the day that President Bush announced a new initiative on disarmament U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney was in Israel to conclude a military agreement with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens and to announce total U.S. commitment to Israel's security, forgetting the Palestinian people's state of affairs and ignoring the most simple and basic human rights. What is more serious is that some Arab countries have forgotten or try to forget that the United States brazenly deals with the Arab countries according to the proverb "I was devoured the day the white ox was devoured" (a famous proverb which has the same meaning as the "divide and conquer" principle). What was declared is different from what was kept secret. What was declared consisted of 10 F-15's, five of which cost $650 million; the contribution of $300 million as the United States share in the development of the Israeli Arrow missile; and the selection of Israel as a center for stockpiling U.S. weapons in the Middle East. I spoke about these details during the war but unfortunately, no one paid any attention.

The Arab nation is now facing a new set of facts represented by the new world order. The United States leads the new world order like Rome had done in the past. However, they forget that Spartacus was a Palestinian, and that Christ and his disciples were also Palestinians.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, the saying: "I was devoured the day the white ox was devoured," is highly significant. It clashes with the argument that stipulates that the Gulf war is the last war. Will it really be the last war?

['Arafat] It is not the last war. Besides, it should be understood that this region is "pregnant". No Arab or Palestinian, whether Christian or Muslim, will rest easy as long as the first of the two qiblas [the direction Muslims pray] and the third holiest shrine, the destination of the nocturnal journey of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and the cradle of Christ, may God's peace be upon him, are fettered and occupied by the Zionists and Israelis.

There can be no peace, stability, or security by circumventing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. We are not exaggerating. We demand that international legitimacy be implemented according to uniform rather than double standards. Let everybody recall that this region is the region of shifting sands and political upheavals which are never quiet. I repeat that the region is "pregnant" with surprises.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, damage, particularly in the economic field, was inflicted on the Palestinian people as a result of the Gulf crisis. How do you assess this damage?

['Arafat] The losses sustained by only the Palestinian community in Kuwait were put at $11.6 billion, not to mention the losses sustained by the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories to whom remittances from their kinfolk in Kuwait and the Gulf as well as Arab donations were cut off. Likewise, revenues from their world exports were halted. I would like to remind those who are showing miserliness when things concern the Palestinian people of a historical document. Palestine's lands are divided into three types: Islamic endowments, Christian endowments as enshrined in Caliph 'Umar's covenant, and the lands which are the property of individuals. This has been the case since the era of 'Abd-al- Malik Bin-Marwan. This is contained in our legal documents. Two thirds of the revenues earned from our Islamic endowments's land tax were distributed equally among the holy Medina shrine, the holy Mecca shrine, and the holy Jerusalem shrine. I am saying this so that all would remember this financial act which was done in the past. Cutting off financial aid puts the residents of Gaza Strip and the West Bank on the verge of starvation. "Therefore give admonition in case the admonition profits the hearer." [Koranic verse]

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, is this a kind of punishment meted out to the PLO because of its position on the Gulf crisis?

['Arafat] No, the punishment was meted out to the PLO prior to the eruption of the Gulf crisis. Likewise, the siege was imposed before the outbreak of this crisis. As for the last summit held in Baghdad before the crisis, it did not produce any assistance for the blessed intifadah of our people in the occupied territories despite all the attempts that I made with all parties in this regard.

Vernon Walters, former U.S. representative to the United Nations and current U.S. ambassador in Bonn, said that a U.S. decision had been made to dry up the PLO's financial resources. As for the European-U.S. committee which met in Rome during the Gulf crisis, it agreed to compensate all those who were harmed by the Gulf crisis with the exception of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was cut off before the eruption of the Gulf crisis, advancing flimsy excuses regarding a military operation in which nobody was wounded, according to Israeli reports. Why does the U.S. Administration not halt its dialogue, cooperation, and extensive and unlimited assistance to the Israeli Government which perpetrates daily massacres, crimes, and aggressions on Islamic and Christian holy places inside and outside Palestine, according to the United Nations and UN reports?

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, there is an attempt to isolate the PLO and Syria from any peace process or from

attending the conference. Can there be peace without Palestinian and Syrian participation?

['Arafat] I have said this and will say it again: No peace and no international conference without the PLO and without Syria. They know this, and know that we are the difficult figure in the Middle East equation. They also know that the storms of the Gulf war cannot cover this flagrant fact with regard to the central issue of the Arab nation—the Palestine question—and ignore the most noble phenomenon in the Arab nation as martyr Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir had described it, or the longest revolution in modern history. No one can block out the sun with his hands. He can conceal it from his sight but not from the world.

[Al-Silawi] How are relations with Syria, particularly following the recent visit of the Palestinian delegation to Syria?

['Arafat] As we have declared through the PLO Executive Committee, we evaluate this meeting as being positive. It has been agreed to make this visit the beginning of a new page of fraternal relations and joint action with Syria, whether on the bilateral level or on the level of the alleged peace conference which Washington attempts to push forward to resolve the Middle East problems. The Palestinian and Syrian viewpoints are identical on this issue (the conference).

[Al-Silawi] Are there contacts between you and the Arabian Gulf states within the framework of clearing the atmosphere?

['Arafat] Yes, contacts are under way. They were the ones who halted contacts, not us.

[Al-Silawi] What about relations with Egypt?

['Arafat] Our relations with Egypt are proceeding in a positive manner. These relations were not halted for a moment during the Gulf crisis.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, what is the PLO position on the issue of the formation of the delegation to attend the proposed conference?

['Arafat] Before talking about the formulas and forms of participation, we must talk about the essence and content of the conference. Is there going to be an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories including Jerusalem, or not?

Is there a determination and agreement to implement the UN resolutions in this regard, or not? Or is it that they want a ceremonial conference to cover their shortcomings following the Gulf war? The United States and its credibility are now being tested. Moreover, UN credibility, which stood with all its weight in support of the United States during the Gulf war, is also being tested.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, the talk about peace is accompanied by Israeli torture and murder of Palestinians. What is your message to the world?

['Arafat] I want to tell the world that the Palestinian people have the right to live freely, and as masters on their free and independent land like the rest of the people in the world. The Palestinian people have the right to self-determination, which is a sacred right and the most important point in human law and the UN Charter. The United States has absolutely no right to be concerned with the right to self-determination of 1,800 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands while ignoring the rights and destiny of 6.5 million Palestinians.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President, what is the role of the friends in the Soviet Union and China? What is the position following their recent meeting with the Soviet foreign minister in Geneva? [sentence as published] Where do they stand now with regard to the Palestine question?

['Arafat] We must understand that there are international changes that must be taken into consideration. Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh has informed me that the position of the Soviet Union has not changed with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people, their just cause, and the PLO. Moreover, they are concerned about establishing a just peace and a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. As for China, there is a U.S. determination to keep it away. We, however, insist on the participation of the Security Council permanent members in the conference and all parties concerned with the conflict, including the PLO.

[Al-Silawi] It is known that you held many meetings with Hamas [the Islamic resistance movement] and the Palestinian National Salvation Front in Syria. Does the Palestinian president have anything to say in this regard?

['Arafat] We proceed from this entrenched unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land, and from our belief in pluralism in this democratic arena which we really consider one of the most important oases of democracy in the region. Based on this, the PLO opens its arms wide for any struggler, organization, and faction within the Palestinian framework, not above or below this framework, not a foreign exportation.

We have two principles that guide us in our work; namely, Jerusalem and democracy. We struggle for them, and we will not forefeit Jerusalem or democracy whatever the case may be.

'Arafat on Peace Efforts, Lebanon, Hamas

JN0206134791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1213 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Telephone interview "conducted a short while ago" with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Antoine Abu-Samrah; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Samrah] Abu-'Ammar, the peace efforts are continuing at this time. But, until now, there has been nothing clear about the future. In your opinion, how can the current situation concerning peace be assessed?

['Arafat] We must take into account that after the Gulf war, the U.S. Administration wanted to establish its credibility. It can only establish credibility by moving politically to resolve the Palestine question and end the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories, whether those in southern Lebanon, the Golan, or our Palestinian territory, including holy Jerusalem, on the basis of single not double standards.

Regrettably, President Bush declared his five-point initiative; namely, territory for peace, an international conference on the basis of 242 and 338, the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian territories, the national political rights of the Palestinian people, and security for Israel. Although this initiative is not perfect, we, nevertheless, have welcomed it like all other Arab states. Where have the obstacles come from? The obstacles have come from the Israeli side, which said "no" to the Palestinian peace initiative, "no" to the Egyptian 10-point plan, and "no" to Baker's five points before the Gulf crisis, and which now says "no" to the initiative proposed by the U.S. Administration.

Regrettably, the Israeli "no's" have coincided with American "no's." "No" to the international conference, "no" to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, "no" to the independent Palestinian state, and "no" to PLO participation. Despite this, we acted positively and gave clear instructions to our brothers and leaders inside the occupied territories to respond positively; they have met four times with U.S. Secretary of State Baker.

Until now, the ball is on the others' court. It is now up to the U.S. Administration and leaders, and to the UN Security Council permanent member states, the EEC, the European countries, the Soviet Union, China, and Japan to face the question: Is there a single standard for international legitimacy or are there double standards? Will they exert pressure?. There is no need to send troops—the need is for political pressure and economic pressure. We do not want to say sanctions because they will not have sanctions as in the case with South Africa. But at least political pressure. Anyway, we are very patient. At the same time, our position is strong, because there can be no peace or settlement without recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights in accordance with Arab legitimacy and the Arab summits' resolutions, Palestinian legitimacy, and international legitimacy, to which we adhere.

[Abu-Samrah] So you think that the peace initiatives are just that and nothing more?

['Arafat] This seems to be the case thus far. In his last statement, Shamir said he will not yield an inch—either he or the coming generations.

[Abu-Samrah] I have a few questions on Arab affairs. A Palestinian delegation was in Damascus recently. Would you say relations are now back to normal with the Syrians?

['Arafat] Yes. The visit has produced brotherly, positive results, and the same goes for the Palestinian-Lebanese talks during the Arab foreign ministers' meeting at the Arab League. At the same time, we have good relations with our brothers in Egypt. The coordination with the Jordanian leadership is ongoing. The confrontation states directly concerned with the Israeli enemy—Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO—must maintain a high degree of coordination so that no one party among them is taken on individually. Thanks be to God, the brothers in these states have proved responsive.

[Abu-Samrah] I would like to ask you a direct question: Are you likely to visit Damascus any time soon?

['Arafat] Why not, Antoine? Damascus, Beirut, and Cairo. Why not?

[Abu-Samrah] Palestinian officials are on record as stating that the Palestinians in Lebanon will not surrender their weapons as long as Israel remains in occupation of southern Lebanon. Have you come to an agreement with the Lebanese Government on this matter, or is it a unilateral Palestinian stand?

['Arafat] We respect our Lebanese brothers' argument that if this Palestinian dimension is addressed satisfactorily, we will have robbed Israel of any pretext for its continued occupation of southern Lebanon. But this is being unduly optimistic. Israel conquered Lebanese territory not only for considerations of geography. Let's not forget that Israel is stealing the waters of three major rivers—al-Wazzani, Nab' al-Hasbani, and al-Litani. You must know that the area and Israel will be critically short of water. Then there is the problem over the Banyas and al-Yarmuk rivers. This is part of Israel's expansionist plan to control the sources of water in the Arab region.

[Abu-Samrah] But Abu-'Ammar, if the Lebanese Government insists on disarming Palestinians, what will your position be?

[Abu-'Ammar] Rest assured, brother Antoine. We are positive because we have a resolution from our Central Council to fully cooperate, with an open heart and mind, with our Lebanese brothers for the benefit of Lebanon and to support the Lebanese Government's efforts to extend control and sovereignty, including....[changes thought] The Palestinian rifle, and I want President al-Hirawi to hear me, the Palestinian rifle belongs to Lebanon's legitimate government, which it can use to face Israel and the Israeli occupation.

[Abu-Samrah] Does this mean you are placing the Palestinian weapons under the control of the Lebanese Army, Abu-Ammar?

[Abu-'Ammar] I am saying this without giving details because we do not want the Israelis to benefit from the details. This Palestinian rifle is at the service of the national, pan-Arab, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab cause.

[Abu-Samrah] Abu-'Ammar, there are a few clouds hovering over the Palestinian arena, particularly in Nabulus, for example. What is happening there?

[Abu-'Ammar] Regrettably, some of our brothers in Hamas wanted to use the opening of al-Najah University to take control of certain positions inside the university. For example they wanted to control the (?mosque). These are students showing off, students showing off. However, we try, with open minds, to say that national unity is the principal pillar of the intifadah's continuity and growth. I make this appeal to all of my brothers and beloved ones in Hamas, the Jihad Movement, Fatah, the Popular Front, the Democratic Front, the communists, the Arab Front, the Popular Front-General Command, the al-Sa'iqah, the Palestine Liberation Front, and every individual and every man and woman. Our national unity is the fortress which defends us as we face the Zionist enemy. There is no need to fight over the bear's skin before we kill it. [laughs]

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you Abu-'Ammar, thank you.

['Arafat] God willing, we will continue together until victory so that we can pray in Jerusalem, pray in the al-Aqsa Mosque on Fridays and in the Church of Holy Sepulcher on Sundays.

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you, Abu-'Ammar.

['Arafat] Good bye, brother.

PLO Executive Committee Meeting Releases Statement

LD3105195691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 May 91

["Text" of PLO Executive Committee statement issued at conclusion of 29-30 May session in Tunis]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a series of meetings on 29 and 30 May under the chairmanship of brother president Yasir 'Arafat. The committee discussed the results of the contacts by numerous Palestinian delegations in the recent period concerning the post-Gulf war political process in the area. The Executive Committee positively evaluated these meetings and the results they achieved for the purpose of providing the elements of progress and success for the political process and whatever is in harmony with the bases of international legitimacy and protecting national Palestinian and Arab interests.

In this framework, the Executive Committee expressed its satisfaction with the results of the meeting of the Palestinian delegation under the leadership of brother president Yasir 'Arafat and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. The two sides agreed on the need for the peace conference to be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and on the continuation of the role of this conference and its effectiveness to achieve the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem, and upholding the national political and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitimacy.

The Executive Council also reviewed the meeting of brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] with the leaders of the struggling African states. It highly appreciated their stand in supporting the Palestinian national struggle under the PLO leadership and their firm permanent backing for Palestinian rights.

The Executive Committee also addressed the results of the recent Arab League meeting held in Cairo, and it welcomed the unanimous election of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as secretary general. It expressed the great hope that this step will give an important and basic impetus to joint Arab action which was disrupted recently.

The Executive Committee discussed the contacts with the brother officials in the Arab Republic of Egypt and their positive results which will contribute to providing the bases for formulating a joint Arab stand toward the proposed peace conference and the need to hold it on basis of the resolutions of internatioanl legitimacy, and also agreement to continue coordination and consultation between the leadership of fraternal Egypt and the PLO leadership.

The Executive Committee reviewed the recent important meetings which took place with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials, which consolidated the coordination and joint action for the benefit of the united aims. The Executive Committee expressed great appreciation for fraternal Jordan's stance and its commitment to the bases of Arab and international legitimacy concerning the political process and the proposed peace conference. The Executive Committee called for continuing this coordination to provide all the conditions necessary for reaching a just and permanent solution in the region in the interest of the Arab nation and the two fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

The Executive Committee discussed the results of the important visit paid by the Palestinian delegation, headed by brother Abu-al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi], chairman of the Political Department, to Damascus, and the meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian officials, and its positive results for developing joint coordination and consolidating ties and contacts between the frontline countries to secure the unity of the Arab stance and provide the elements of success for holding an international peace conference with an effective and continuous role based on international legitimacy and its resolutions under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the sides of the conflict including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation with the fraternal Syrian stance, and stressed the importance of continuing the consultation and coordination and developing relations with Syria to serve the national

and pan-Arab aims during this stage in which the Arab situation is exposed to comprehensive dangers.

The Executive Committee reviewed the contacts which took place with Lebanese officials, particularly the Lebanese foreign minister. The committee stressed its commitment to cooperation with the Lebanese Government by facilitating the spread of its sovereignty over all the Lebanese territories; ending the Israeli occupation of the Lebanese south; and implementing international resolutions on this matter, especially Resolution 425, in a way which protects the security of the refugee camps and our people in Lebanon, and their national and social rights.

The Executive Committee addressed the criminal actions and brutal violations in Kuwait to which the Palestinian people are exposed, which contradict all Arab and human values and principles, and which are condemned and denounced at both the Arab and international levels. The Executive Committee emphasized the demand that the Kuwaiti authorities should immediately end these savage crimes and make the culprints account for them. The Executive Committee has adopted numerous measures to protect the security and interests of our people in Kuwait at both the international and Arab levels.

The Executive Committee reviewed developments in the occupied homeland. It saluted the steadfastness of our heroic people and their blessed intifadah which constitutes the light of hope in this total darkness.

The Executive Committee affirmed the implementation of the resolutions of the Palestinian Central Council concerning the question of consolidating the steadfastness of the intifadah and our people's unity of ranks in confronting the plans of building settlements and stepping up the judaization process. It called on all the Arab and international institutions and particularly the United Nations Security Council to play their role in implementing the resolutions relating to putting an end to building settlements and to the need to provide international protection for our people under occupation.

The Executive Committee denounced the advancing waves of Jewish emigration and particularly the emigration from Ethiopia with blatant U.S. support—a matter that helps the expansionist Zionist plan to realize the aim of building Greater Israel and destroying the peace process.

Body Makes Appeal for Palestinians in Kuwait

LD0206002691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jun 91

["Text" of "urgent appeal" by the Palestinian Human Rights Committee to "the bureau for the defense of human rights at the Geneva office, UNESCO in Paris, the Arab League secretary general in Cairo, the Islamic Conference Organization in Jeddah, the International Red Cross in Geneva, the Arab Lawyers Association in Cairo, and all Arab and international organizations, societies, leagues, Arab and human rights committees"—date not given]

[Text] The Palestinian Human Rights Committee has received urgent calls for help from numerous sons of the Palestinian community in Kuwait confirming the escalation of the campaign of persecution, arrest, and deportation which have begun to take on a determined and organized aspect with the advent of the new Kuwaiti Government as of 28 May. These campaigns are aimed at the places of Palestinian concentration and the sons of the Arab communities who remained, particularly nationals of states that adopted a different stand toward the intervention of the allied American-Atlantic forces during the Gulf crisis and the destructive war that was waged against Iraq and Kuwait.

These messages revealed the falsehood and invalidity of the statements of the Kuwaiti authorities and the military administration about the limited number of acts of revenge and violations of human rights. The desire for revenge that was fanned by the ruling authorities took the country to the brink of genocide, sedition, and incitement to committing acts of pursuit, arrest, and assassination of opposing Kuwaiti elements which disapproved of the acts of assassination and torture committed against Palestinians and sons of the Arab community in Kuwait. This was confirmed by [passage indistinct] and the opposition parties last week.

These messages described the recent sham trials as a theatrical performance designed to distract attention from the chain of daily suffering and agony endured by the Palestinians and Arabs in the shadow of the conditions of vengeance and revenge that have become routine behavior, gripping the mentality of the Kuwaiti authorities and their military and security services and various departments. This has gone so far as to reach civilian institutions and private and public companies. As a result, it has become the wish of the sons of the Palestinian community, who are about 150,000 in number, ("to get out of) this hell. They are suffering the terrors of the military and security siege, acts of pursuit and persecution, unemployment, starvation, and impoverishment. The situation has reached the point where the landlords of buildings and apartments are being incited to throw Palestinian tenants and their families out into the streets, on the pretext that they are in arrears in their rent, despite the fact that all official statements and declarations confirmed that these debts have been waived.

These messages refer to admissions by Kuwaiti sources that the number of detainees in Kuwaiti prisons has reached 13,000, ("one-third) of whom are Palestinians, distributed over 10 main detention centers ("and chiefly) the military prison, where they practice brutal torture, using electric shocks, knives, and hammers, suspending the body by the arms, breaking bones and fingers, and removing fingernails, without mercy. Some prisoners' lives have been endangered as a result of the illnesses and injuries inflicted on them by the severe torture. For

example, Dr. (Nazmi Fathi) died under torture, after his backbone had been broken by the gladiators in prison.

The cell in the military prison of those who are ("raped) became a place that they referred to as "the graveyard." In this cell 13 prisoners spent a whole month under brutal torture. They were ("dragged) outside in full view of all the detainees. [passage indistinct]

According to Kuwaiti sources, the victims who have died as a result of this repression and terror so far number well over 1,000, of various Arab nationalities. [passage indistinct]

The messages refer to special torture chambers, ("at) the al-Farwaniyyah [word indistinct] and the great Mubarak hospital, villas, and special places which belong to shaykhs and amirs. The messages define the recent measures taken to implement oppression and discrimination within the framework of government ("announcements) in the following spheres:

Freedom of travel and movement: The interior minister began to grant only a very limited number of exit permits, after comprehensive scrutiny, to Palestinian applicants. Permits are only obtained after tortuous visits to the department and humiliating and exhausting haggling. The next problem begins when the Kuwaiti airline refuses to sell tickets to the sons of the Arab communities who are being punished for their countries' stand; these are the nationals of Iraq, Palestine, the Arab Maghreb, Yemen, Jordan, and Sudan.

Some companies ("which have very few) flights make it a condition that passengers must obtain transit visas in advance for the state to which they want to travel. This simply means that it is impossible for them to travel out of or leave the grand prison.

Traveling by road: There is no chance of traveling across the Iraqi border. Saudi Arabia still refuses to allow anyone to pass through its territory in transit. In the event of a travel permit being granted, the person who is leaving is not permitted to carry any luggage except his personal clothes and in a very limited quantity. The matter is not very different with regard to freedom of movement and travel inside Kuwait. Travel is restricted by unexpected roadblocks by the Army, police, and militia. Even police patrols are enforcing movement restrictions that cannot be met by the sons of the Palestinian community. These start with personal abuse and fines starting at 100 dinars and end with the seizure of motor vehicles.

These measures restrict the movement of the sons of the community, and thus they have become hostages and prisoners who remain inside their homes terrified and gripped with fear of their unknown fate.

As for the question of employment: The new government still procrastinates over the payment of salaries that are due to [word indistinct] the Palestinian employees and technicians who remained in Kuwait during the crisis, and in the shadow of all these dangers. The authorities refuse to pay any financial compensation; this is in contrast with the Kuwaiti employees and others of different nationalities who are not included in the boycott decisions. These have received their checks, or enough to let them meet their needs in the shadow of poverty and the very high cost of living. The ever growing unemployment threatens to turn a broad section of the sons of the Palestinian community into beggers.

The new government also issued a decree forbidding Kuwaiti companies and private organizations from employing any Palestinians, however desperately they need employment. The decree also includes the nationals of other states. All this is taking place while companies daily are placing advertisements in newspapers for employees and those who are specialized [words indistinct] to rejoin their units. The exception to this is the Palestinians who are being exposed to ("delays and procrastination) so that they are ("prevented from rejoining their employers, or as a step toward) terminating their services and finally exc'luding them from work [words indistinct].

Education: The Kuwaiti minister of education announced that his ministry will not accept students who continued their studies during the occupation. Later he amended this in his statement on 16 May 1991 to the Kuwaiti newspaper 'AL-FAJR Al-JADID'. He said that everyone who studied during the occupation can resume their studies in private schools. This also includes the teachers.

In the light of his ministry's decisions on the university and schools, the situation is now as follows: The university—one academic year is counted as two to recompense for the previous year and the current year. Study at the university is confined to Kuwaiti students only. Palestinian students, according to the ministry's decisions [words indistinct] and deferring their university studies to the coming year. This means that when they return next year, and this is not quite certain according to the reports, they will have lost two years of study.

As for the schools, studies in government schools are confined to Kuwaiti pupils only. It was decided to deprive the other pupils, and in the forefront are the Palestinians [words indistinct].

The new government decision also calls for abolishing the support which used to be given in the form of waiving 50 percent of the fees for all students in private schools. This makes it difficult for the guardians of students to pay these high financial commitments. It also places private schools in the vicious circle of new problems, which are added to the old problems, and this may lead to the closure of most of them, depriving a wide section of students from completing their education.

Health: The new government has decided to abrogate the system of treatment and free medicine and confine it to Kuwaitis only. A decree that was issued in this regard pointed out that the implementation of this decision

would be carried out two months after it was issued. This means that the lives of thousands of sons of the Arab communities are threatened with health risks [word indistinct] starting with the dangers of environmental pollution and ending with the current and dangerous diseases brought about by the destruction of war caused by the alliance's weapons of death and destruction.

Housing: The Kuwaiti citizens, owners of estates and houses, have started to ask the sons of Arab communities, particularly the Palestinians, to pay rent that is backdated to 2 August 1990, knowing that the amir of Kuwait announced in his speech to cancel backdated rents from tenants. Some landlords have resorted to the methods of threats, harrassment, and abuse to tenants, insulting their families and threatening to throw them out on the streets with their furniture.

Trials: We think it is sufficient here to mention what one of the leading figures of the Kuwaiti opposition, from the proud sons of Kuwait, said that these trials are a fictitious play, the realization of which is elementary and in which justice and the real defendants are absent. Their aim is to divert attention from the reality of the crimes taking place in Kuwait perpetrated under the aegis of martial law which is backed by the presence of the forces of the military alliance.

This also has been confirmed by the international press, some of whose correspondents are able to attend the farce of the trials together with some representatives of the International Red Cross, Amnesty International, and the foreign embassies in Kuwait. Here we hasten to point out that the Kuwaiti authorities have stopped the Arab Bar Association, the Arab Human Rights Organization, and a number of Arab legal and human rights organizations from attending these trials, monitoring them, and defending the accused.

According to the testimony of the two Kuwaiti lawyers, Najib al-Wakyan and Imad Sayf, there is no real evidence against the accused, the charges against them are based on questionable testimonies, and some of the confessions were obtained by brutal terrorism and torture.

The Palestinian Human Rights Committee praises the courage of these lawyers and reiterates its confidence in the stance of the patriotic opposition in Kuwait, which was expressed in its statement of 14 May 1991. The committee calls on them to intervene immediately and to testify and expose the identities of the real culprits. This is to uphold rights and to lift the injustice prevailing over the sons of the Palestinian and Arab people.

We consider it (?our right) [word indistinct] the Western testimonies, which describe these trials as shameful and false, to wonder: Who will put the real culprits on trial and when? When will Shaykh Sa'd al-Sabah, the general military governor, be put on trial? Who will put on trial his son, who led the assassination teams and killed and sabotaged left, right, and center according to the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT? Who will put Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on trial for the crimes committed by his militias, who were trained in the United States, Beirut, and Damascus?—this also is according to foreign journalists. When will the direct responsibility of the shaykh and the amir, Basil Salim Sabah al-Salim and Basil Jabir al-Ahmad, be proven for all the crimes of collective murder and genocide to which hundreds of innocent Palestinians, Kuwaitis, and Arabs are exposed? We mention in particular Shaykh Ahmad Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who was proved by Kuwaiti sources to have personally committed murder and torture.

Here we do not restrict ourselves to calling for trials, as we find it to be our human duty to demand Arab and international public opinion to intervene using all means to stop these massacres and to deter the culprits.

We think that the command of the U.S.-NATO alliance, which is spreading its military shadow over Kuwait, the Gulf region, and the Peninsula, is completely responsible because what is being committed is taking place within the sight and sound of these forces—and frequently under their supervision, according to numerous Western press testimonies—as we have said in previous memoranda.

Prisons, detention camps, and the situation of the detainees: In addition to the aforementioned documented testimony and information, the Palestinian Human Rights Committee has received irrefutable reports and documents from the (?al-Tasamuh) committee, which is a nongovernmental committee established in Kuwait following the formation of the Kuwaiti Human Rights Committee and which concerns itself with defending the rights of Palestinians in Kuwait. These reports reveal the terrifying facts about the situation in Kuwait. They truly are an indictment of the murders, persecutions, and torture committed daily by the Kuwaiti authorities with the knowledge, supervision, and blessing of the U.S.-NATO alliance forces. These documents also reveal the reality of the tragic situation which thousands of detainees and hostages suffer in public and private prisons of Kuwait.

May there be long life and freedom for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in exile, and in places of emigration.

Intifadah Leadership Notes Need for Peace

LD0106092591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] has emphasized that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East relies on three tenets of legitimacy: international legitimacy represented in all the UN resolutions; Palestinian legitimacy as crystalized and expressed by the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council; and Arab legitimacy as expressed at the Rabat summit and other Arab summits which have recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a statement released on 31 May, the UNLI described U.S. moves to resolve the Middle East issue as ineffectual and restricted unless the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state is recognized.

Regarding Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh's recent visit to Israel, the statement stressed the gravity of the Soviet stance vis-a-vis allowing emigration to Israel, pointing out that that stance was tantamount to a blatant aggression against the Palestinian people's national rights and the Palestinian state's national sovereignty. The unified leadership again urged the Soviet Union to reconsider that policy.

Regarding Zionist practice against the sons of the Palestinian people, the UNLI's statement urged the international community to put pressure on the Zionist entity to stop these practices. It appealed to the UN to provide international protection for the Palestinian people and to convene a special meeting of the UN General Assembly to discuss the situation in the occupied territories and to come up with resolutions that would remove the oppression and occupation suffered by the Palestinian people.

Intifadah Unified Command Issues 71st Call

LD0206225791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jun 91

["Full text" of Call No.71 of the Unified National Command of the Intifadah]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There is no voice louder than that of the intifadah, the voice of the PLO Call No.71; call of the PLO:

The valiant intifadah has been consistently cutting its path for 43 months, turning upside down the calculations of our enemies, vanquishing their plots and the criminal means of their tyranny, and affirming that our people are determined to continue their mighty Intifadah, to develop it and to take it forward so that our objectives are realized: Return, self-determination, and giving substance to an independent state.

O steadfast masses! The issuance of this call coincides with the upcoming 27th anniversary of the setting up of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people and the embodiment of Palestinian nationalism. On this great struggle-related occasion, we reiterate to our masses the pledge of struggle, martyrdom, and blood as well as determination to continue the struggle until the objectives are realized.

We affirm, from the position of confrontation and jihad, that a just and comprehensive peace is a peace that is based on the three legitimacies: international legitimacy, represented by all the UN resolutions; Palestinian legitimacy as embodied and expressed by the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestinian National Council; and Arab legitimacy as expressed by the resolutions of the Rabat summit and the other Arab summits which recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people, and which should form the basis for bringing back inter-Arab solidarity and putting an end to the fragmentation and division left by the Gulf war.

In the occupied territories, while repeating our demand for a halt to the campaign of witch hunt, repression, and persecution against our Palestinian brothers in Kuwait and elsewhere, we express our strong opposition and legitimate concern to the Gulf [as heard] announcement of readiness to take part in the so-called regional conference. While we affirm our solidarity with Syria against the Israeli campaign of blackmail and threat, we hope that the Syrian brothers will respond to the call for reconciliation with the PLO, and open up a new page in Palestinian-Syrian relations based on mutual respect, equality, and unity of objective and common destiny, so that it may become the basis for building and strengthening a unified Arab position that rises to the pan-Arab challenges and responsibilities.

In this context we highly value the call of the organization for a meeting of the Arab states neighboring Israel, in order to coordinate their stands on the moves taking place in the region.

O masses of the uprising, we in the State of Palestine point out again that the U.S. initiative to solve the Middle East issue is a sterile and limited initiative as long as it does not recognize the right of our people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. We must not be blinded by the formal criticisms addressed by U.S. Secretary of State Baker to the settlement activities (?which are) taking place on the land since his shuttle tours coincided with an increase in the rate of settlement and the escalatiuon of the Zionist repression with arrests, deportation, seizure of citizen's lands, demolition of houses, and collective punishments.

Israel rejects the sixth resolution of the UN Security Council calling for the return of those who were deported, and Israel, with assistance from the United States, has transported thousands of falasha Jews, a matter which will multiply settlement in the occupied territories. In light of Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnyks's visit to Israel, our people affirm the gravity of the Soviet stand of allowing emigration to Israel, a matter which is incompatible with the declared peace policy of the Soviet Union. This emigration encourages the extremist Likud government to increase settlement in the occupied territories and whets its appetite for esstablishing Greater Israel. This, in itself, is a blatant violation of the national rights of another people and the national sovereignty of our Palestinian state. We repeat our requests to the Soviet Union to reconsider this policy.

O masses of our brave uprising, our uprising is an important gain of our people, achieved with constant struggle and huge sacrifices. It has become our fundamental choice and the real guarantee for reaching our

national goals and is a response to all the conspiracies to which our cause is subjected and to the savage practices which our people face. Thus, the Zionist occupation forces have followed a policy of siege against our people and have divided our state into four parts which are separated by semipermanent military checkpoints.

Israel has followed a carrot and stick policy but in a new way, and this is in order to (?create) social and economic (?groups) within a single people.

While we appeal to the international community to play its role by applying pressure to stop this policy, we call on the United Nations to provide international protection for our people and to hold a special meeting of the UN General Assembly to debate the conditions in the occupied areas and to adopt decisive resolutions which will abolish the persecution and occupation of our people.

The Unified National Command draws the attention of our masses to the occupation plot. It calls on the owners of enterprises, factories, and workshops, and particularly in the Arab city of Jerusalem, to treat all officials, workers, and employees who are unable to reach their places of work due to the Zionists' measures of prevention and siege as detainees and holders of green cards, and with whatever guarantees to treat the interests of the businesses and the workers equally and on the same footing.

O masses of our heroic people, facing the plots of the Zionist occupiers also requires us to entrench and strengthen our national unity and to build the broadest relations with our people. We must widen the organizational frameworks of the various committees, bodies, and institutions so that the broadest masses and social factions are able to take part in decision making. We must spread the democratic spirit in public life. We must discard administrative and officious methods in dealing with the masses. We must intensify the role of the masses and listen to their demands. It is because of their determination and might that the intifadah is contining and escalating.

We stress that the main message of the intifadah requires the following:

1. To rise above all self-interest and narrow outlook, strengthening solidarity among all the patriots and upright people, enlarging the frameworks of the leadership, and nurturing it with various potentials.

2. Ending factional rivalries, confining competive action to giving and serving.

3. Putting an end to negative practices, combatting complacency, protecting the Intifadah against foul play and (?breaches of faith).

4. Drawing up a firm code of discipline, to stop complacanecy and (?unbecoming) behavior.

5. To stop covering one's face with headgear when one is dealing with the masses. To stop kidnapping, interrogation, and killing except with the agreement of all the groups. This will close the door to the Zionist occupation authorities and prevent them from using any breaches in order to hatch their conspiarcies and hostile plans.

The Unified National Command holds everyone who commits such acts personally responsible. This requires us to act by various means in order to encircle and prevent the spread of phenomena such as fanning differences which are nurtured by the Zionist occupation authorities. Therefore, coordination committees should be activated in various places between the sides of the national movement in order to coordinate and unify militant acivity. Also, reform committees should be set up to prevent any misunderstanding even before it occurs.

The Unified National Command salutes the recent initiatives of patriotic and upright personalties which have succeeded in solving a number of regrettable differences which took place in some places.

The Unified National Command stresses the need to follow up the question of boycotting Israeli goods which may have a national substitute. It calls for the formation of a general national committee to protect the consumer and also to examine the product, its quality and price, and to set standards and procedures which should be followed nationally.

The Unified National Command appeals to the administrative committees and officials in all the national health and social institutions to provide all the services which are demanded from them by all sections of our people who approach these institutions in search of service. To put it precisely: Those who suffered from the occupation, foremost among whom are the families of the martyrs and those who sustained injury and the families of detainees, should be given every assistance.

The Unified National Command calls on the masses of our people not to molest vehicles belonging to foreign consular, diplomatic, or relgious bodies accredited in Jerusalem. Any act against them constitutes a violation of our militant traditions and ethics in dealing with foreign guests.

The Unified National Command calls on the masses of our people to confront and foil the attempts by occupation authorities in some areas to exploit certain doubtful symbols in the chamber of commerce elections. It urges that until the election or formation of chambers of commerce or industry takes place through national decision and supervision [sentence incomplete as heard].

The Unified National Command repeats what it said to the owners of factories in the occupied territories to absorb those who carry green cards.

The Unified National Command salutes all the bodies and institutions which have come forward to give aid

and assistance to our masses. It calls on them to continue the good work in this respect.

The Unified National Command values the stand of the striking forces at the village of 'Abwin in Ramallah for their efforts in uncovering a gang of thieves and inreturning stolen property to its owners. We hope that this action will become an example to be copied by all our striking groups and the popular guard committees.

The Unified National Command salutes the schools and teaching bodies who quickly extended the academic year to enable our students to compensate for the studies they have missed. It calls on the sons of our people, teachers, students, and everyone to safeguard and protect the education process. It also takes this opportunity to stress to our students who will be sitting the general certificate of education exam for this year that they must have self-discipline and must not cheat in the exams; they should restore credibility to the pre-university certificate. This requires the formation of joint committees including teachers and leading educational figures so that they can cooperate to deal with this matter. In this connection, we call upon UNESCO to work to provide protection and immunity for our educational institutions.

We salute our detainees in the camps of the Zionist occupation who steadfastly refused visits by their families in protest against the attempts to undermine their determination, steal the morsels on which they live, and confiscate the gains which they have obtained through continued and persistent struggle, sacrifices, injuries, and martyrdom.

We call on international bodies, especially the Red Cross, to intervene immediately to stop the racist policy against our prisoners and their families, so that their visiting rights may be respected without blackmail. We also salute the mothers, wives, and sisters of our prisoners who are holding a sit-in at the Red Cross headquarters and are waging a constant struggle in support of our prisoners in detention camps.

The Unified National Command calls our masses to the following actions:

1. Saturday 1 June, International Children's Day: Marches will be organized in which children and those supervising them will take part, and in which they will raise flags and banners calling for freedom, justice, and peace. Solidarity visits will also be organized on that day to the children of martyrs and detainees, or their brothers.

2. 2 June: The anniversary of the criminal aggression against the elected municipality mayors will be a distinguished day of struggle and escalation.

3. 4 June: Commemoration of martyr 'Umar al-Qasim, member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by means of distinguished acts of struggle.

4. 5 and 6 June: Two days of escalation on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Israeli occupation, and the ninth anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Palestinian flags will be raised extensively, and acts of struggle and confrontation will be coordinated in all positions, in a unified manner. All our villages will be declared liberated areas.

5. 9 June: All-out strike on the occasion of the intifidah entering its 43d month.

6. 12 June: Special day of escalation, in which private cars will cease to drive—commercial and public transport vehicles are excepted—in protest of the exorbitant taxes imposed on private cars, such as the stones tax, and other taxes illegally levied from our masses.

7. 17 June: Day of solidarity with those carrying green cards. Visits of solidarity with them will be organized.

8. 19 June: Day of escalation of struggle, in solidarity with our prisoners detained in Israeli jails. On this day, large-scale sit-ins will be organized at the Red Cross headquarters, together with a major information campaign for this purpose.

9. 17 and 16 June: Days of full opening of shops up to 1700.

10. We congratulate our masses on the occasion of the onset of the blessed 'id al-idha which falls on 20 June. The two days preceding the 'id will be considered as days of full opening of shops.

We also urge our masses to perform prayers at the holy Al-'Aqsa Mosque, in affirmation of our attachment to our sanctities in the face of the dangers of obliteration and judaization.

11. 20 June: Day of general trade strike, in protest at the annexation of Jerusalem. We urge our masses to consider this day as a day of special struggle against annexation and addition of territory, and of affirmation of the Arab character of our Jerusalem, capital of our Palestinian state.

12. 29 and 30 June: Two days of distinguished escalation against settlement and the hordes of settlers.

13. The Unified National Command urges all the commands and units to unify their slogans, shun writing on the walls of homes, and content themselves with writing in public places only. Let us begin with the unifying of our slogans on specific occasions: 5 June, and the anniversary of the annexation of Jerusalem. Let these slogans be as follows:

—Jerusalem will remain the capital of our independent state.

—The intifidah is our option, the state is our objective, and victory will be ours.

—No to annexation, addition of territory, and settlement.

—Our national unity is the source of our strength.

—Long live the PLO, sole legitimate representative of our people.

You have, brothers, heard the full text of Call No.71, call of the PLO, issued by the Unified National Command of the intifidah. You heard it from the Voice of Palestine radio, the voice of the Palestinian revolution.

Intifadah Higher Committee Issues Statement

LD0306013391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] The Intifadah Higher Committee held a working session under the chairmanship of Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on 30 and 31 May devoted to discussion of various intifadah issues and ways of protecting and stepping up the intifadah.

The committee reviewed the hard economic and living conditions that our people in the occupied homeland have endured as a result of the war of starvation and encirclement: the racist and oppressive laws and measures imposed by the occupation; the attempts to demolish and tear up the geographical and demographic unity of our land and people; the intensified operations of Jewish immigration and seizure of land; and expansion of settlement construction.

In the light of dealing with the Unified National Command and in accordance with the resolutions of the Central Council, the committee declares the following:

1. The committee is proud and honored by the steadfastness of the militant masses of our people who have continued their blessed intifadah after the Gulf war and throughout all these months and long years, whose heroic resistance has never stopped despite all the terrorist and reppressive methods and measures aimed at striking the blessed initfadah of our people.

The committee highly evaluates the entrenchment and inflexibility of the national unity among the factions of our people and its national forces. It salutes the depth of its rallying around the PLO and their successful abortion of all attempts to destroy the unity of our people inside and outside the occupied land.

2. The committee stresses that the blessed intifadah and the gallant struggle of our people at various places of their presence, based on national unity and the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolution of the PNC [Palestine National Council] at its 18th session, form a strong fortress and impregnable barrier against the hostile schemes and plots against the rights of our people along the road to victory and realization of our inalienable rights, foremost of which is our right to return and to self-determination and establishment of our independent state whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

3. The committee reaffirms that national unity is the strong base of steadfastness and confrontation and the rock against which all the conspiracies of the enemies founder.

In this framework, the committee calls on all forces, national leaderships, and particularly the religious leaderships, to entrench democracy as a basis for regulating national relations and to work to raise the level of militant coordination in confronting the common enemy and rallying of everyone around the banner of the blessed intifadah.

4. The committee calls on the masses of our people to demonstrate the highest degrees of vigilance, caution, and wariness, and to forestall all hostile attempts which are aimed at fanning sedition and tribal, clan, and factional chauvinism.

In this connection, the committee reviewed the regrettable and painful incidents that took place in recent days in Gaza and Nabulus. It recorded its condemnation and denunciation of all the actions that are contrary to the traditions of our people and which were instigated by some and which the enemy is exploiting in order to strike national unity and abort the intifadah.

The committee salutes the efforts of all the institutions and national personalities which hasten to solve the problem in al-Nusayrat, and the town of Nabulus in particular, wisely and with a high degree of responsibility; thus foiling the occupation and its agents.

5. Within the framework of reviewing the progress of the intifadah, the Committee affirms the need to abide by what had been stated in the Unified National Command Call No. 71 and to discard all the negative aspects, including the phenomenon of those who cover their faces with headgear in front of masses especially when the occupation exploits it by committing numerous murders, kidnapping, torture, and interrogation of many upright patriots, and makes these look as acts committed by the revolution forces.

The committee affirms the need to be committed and to uphold the bases of dealing with the agents which were defined in the statements of the Unified National Command and the committee considers every act which by-passes it an action against the revolution and the blessed intifadah.

6. The committee affirms that the enlistment of our people within the framework of the blessed intifadah and its institutions has been among the decisive elements of its escalation. The committee also stresses the need and the importance to continue the formation of national and popular cadres in all regions and areas and that they should be given the chance to shoulder national responsibility and tackle daily problems of the citizens especially in the shadow of the hard conditions that our people face and the financial blockade imposed on them since the Gulf crisis.

The committee affirms the need to step up the role of the unified higher councils and that their formation should be completed on democratic bases and on the basis of specialization so that they cover all spheres.

The committee calls for completion of the formation of the land defense committees and the revolutionary discipline committees and broadening and diversifying the charity, solidarity, and family cohesion committees and building other committees as necessary and giving all the other personalities a chance to participate in them.

7. The committee salutes, with appreciation and pride, the lofty stand of our heroic prisoners and detainees in the prisons of occupation who stand 10 feet tall in front of their prison wardens despite all the fascist and inhuman measures practiced by the occupation against them.

It calls on the masses of our people, the masses of the Arab nation, and the masses of the friends and upright people in the world to show effective solidarity with them by various ways and means.

We call on the international institutions concerned to shoulder their responsibilities toward the treatment these heroes are getting in their prisons and detention camps.

8. The committee salutes the masses of students and the teaching and administrative bodies in universities, colleges, institutes, and schools which have waged a successful battle against the policy of spreading ignorance and in defense of the right to learn. The committee affirms in this framework the need to safeguard the school educational process and the respect for the educational institutions, and facilitating their task of teaching and safeguarding the level of knowledge as a deep-rooted tradition in our people's heritage and a revolutionary and educational source of pride.

9. The committee paused at length on the difficult economic conditions that our people are living under in the occupied homeland as a result of the racist policy followed by the occupation and in face of the financial siege and the circumstances of the Gulf crisis, it affirms that the priority of giving support in the PLO policy goes to supporting the steadfastness of our patient, struggling, and steadfast masses under occupation.

The committee reviewed various contacts and activities of the organs and institutions of the PLO in order to provide greater support to the people of the intifadah from the Palestinian communities and various official and popular Arab and Islamic and international institutions including the friendly states in Europe and the EEC, Asia, and Africa.

The committee affirms the resolve of the PLO leadership to continue to shoulder its responsibilities toward supporting the basic requirements of the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland directly or by way of the other international organizations which operate in our occupied land.

10. The committee salutes the national unified command and all its cadres and institutions and militant committees and it highly values their role and their sense of shouldering their national responsibilities in this historic period of the struggle of our triumphant people and in face of the international Arab and local moves to entrench our irrevocable rights and in accordance with the international Arab and Palestinian legitimacy. It stresses its resolve to make every effort and to provide all that is necessary to enable it to follow up the shouldering of its militant tasks in the best possible way until the occupation is defeated and freedom and national independence for our great people are achieved.

Source Denies Palestinians Attacked Americans

JN3005182391 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 May 91

[Text] A responsible Palestinian media source made a statement in Tunis yesterday saying: Journalist William Safire wrote in the HERALD TRIBUNE published the day before yesterday, a report saying that Palestinians opened fire on American soldiers in Saudi Arabia and that the Saudi monarch threatened to expel the Palestinian community just as he expelled the Yemeni community.

What William Safire wrote is a cheap act of groundless fabrication meant to ruin Palestinian-Saudi relations. We are certain that the brothers in Saudi Arabia are fully aware of the objectives of such suspect campaigns.

PLO Hails UK Chief Rabbi's Criticism of Israel

LD2905203791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] An official PLO source has made the following statement:

In a statement published by the British EVENING STANDARD on 23 May the Chief Jewish Rabbi in Britain criticized Israel and regarded the condition of Palestinian refugees as the shame of humanity. With the statement by a prominent rabbi, the Palestinian situation—particularly in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis—emerges as the first among those world situations that are dangerous and explosive, which must come under a decisive rule aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive solution that would take into consideration the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights.

While highly assessing this statement from a high religious authority, the PLO sees in it a clear indication of Israel's role in the unjust aggression on Palestinian rights and making the Palestinian people homeless, and as a condemnation of Israel and of the United States, which is still focusing its political stances on supporting the aggression, protecting Israeli terrorism and occupation, judging similar issues on the bases of different standards, and, furthermore, favoring less significant issues at the expense of fundamental and central issues, forefront among them being the Palestinian issue.

Israeli Peace Campaigner Urged To End Strike

LD3005141891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 May 91

[Text] Palestinian prisoners in occupation prisons have addressed an appeal to Israeli peace campaigner Abe Nathan in which they urged him to stop his hunger strike, which he started about a month ago, in order for him to be able to continue his struggle for peace.

The statement said: We turn to you in the name of peace, justice, and understanding among peoples to stop your hunger strike. We are aware that the road to peace is a long one and it needs sincere and honest messengers like yourself. We also feel that extent of patience and suffering which you have experienced during the strike, which we have lived with during the long years we have been spending in prisons. We emphasize our appeal to you to stop the hunger strike in order for us to continue together the struggle to achieve peace and justice for the two peoples.

Algeria

President Bendjedid Gives Address on Elections

LD0206210391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Speech by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on 2 June, marking beginning of the election campaign; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I address you today on the occasion of the launching of the campaign for the early National People's Assembly election. Given the importance of this institution, and to stress its future role, I would like to bring back to mind the stages we have been through, starting from the commitments I made to the Algerian people, proceeding from your adoption of the Constitution on 23 February 1989.

Proceeding from this principle, I gradually began to set up all the institutions mentioned by the Constitution, and starting from the elections for the local councils, we arrive today at the renewal of the National People's Assembly. Given the importance of this institution, as I said, which has an important role for the future life of the nation, and in view of the level of responsibility of this institution regarding the (?march) of the Algerian state, given all this I address you, and I say to you that this phase is considered historic in the history of independent Algeria.

For the first time, a National People's Assembly is elected in a multiparty framework. The responsibility and role of the National People's Assembly in the era of the 23 February Constitution is completely different from the previous assemblies, because it has large-scale and considerable prerogatives vis-a-vis the administration of state affairs, starting with legislation, to controlling, following up, and passing all projects—economic, social, and others.

For this reason, and given the importance of this institution, I hope that, and I call upon, all citizens to take part in the coming elections to perform your national and constitutional duty, and to point out the beginning of the trend toward practising democracy in our country. In this context, all the necessary measures have been taken by the concerned bodies so that this operation may pass off in a clear and frank manner with total openness. Naturally, in this context, this operation will take place in all honesty, removed from any distortion or falsification of the coming elections.

For this reason, I hope that all the parties concerned, whether closely or distantly, in this great operation will take part in preparing the appropriate atmosphere so that these elections may take place in a sound climate, dominated by calm and stability, and to allow Algerian society to express its opinion in all freedom, and to choose the person or those who have a program for the future.

I affirm and I pledge again that we will respect the will of the Algerian people regarding its choice, and we will encourage any assembly or the role of the assembly. We will also help or encourage the government that will emanate from the coming elections.

In this framework I said the necessary measures have been taken to provide the necessary conditions. This is the responsibility of the government. It has laid down and will lay down the necessary conditions to create stability and security for the Algerian citizen, so that he may discharge his duty in all tranquillity and freedom, and removed from any kind of agitation and pressure.

[Words indistinct] we saw recently some elements cause tension within Algerian society and deceive their activists who are loyal nationalists. They decieved them into taking a wrong and incorrect direction, one that serves the interest of neither Algeria nor the homeland, nor that of the Algerian people as a whole. It causes confusion and distortion. But we say that as such, the state and the government, being responsible to the people, have taken the necessary measures in the framework of the law to make available the conditions and necessary climate for this great and fateful operation.

I affirm that, as the responsible leader official for this state, we will see to it that the law is observed and implemented, the law emanating from the principles of the Constituiton. As I have said, the necessary measures will be taken to create the appropriate climate and atmosphere.

On this occasion, I address myself to you, brother citizen and sister citizen, and to all the parties, societies, and mass organizations, to contribute to and work toward creating the necessary conditions for this great operation, fateful for the future of our homeland.

I have total confidence that the people of Algeria have reached the level of political maturity that enables them to work toward the demonstration of these concepts and to uphold democracy, so as to make democracy a reality in our society, practiced within the framework of our affiliation, within the framework of our institutions, and within the framework of our laws.

On this occasion I would like to extend my thanks [passage indistinct] the defamations carried out by some elements with the aim of creating instability, that you are at the level of events.

My hope is that everyone should be mobilized for the public good, because the common denominator between all officials, regardless of their different views, is the service of the public interest. [Words indistinct] within this framework we could say that we had discharged the task or have worked toward the realization of the commitments and promises we have proclaimed in the past years. We will provide the conditions at the suitable time to complete what is left of this great process, namely the political and economic reforms, and upholding democracy in our country.

This is what I wanted to say to you. Thank you and peace be upon you.

Tear Gas Used To Disperse FIS Supporters 2 Jun

LD0306112591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Marches of the supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] continued on the ninth day of the open strike. Units from the anti-riot forces intervened this afternoon to block the main streets leading to Larbi Ben Mhidi Boulevard, in the center of the capital, particularly the streets leading to Emir Abdelkader Square where a rally, to be chaired by the FIS second in command, Mr. 'Ali Belhadj, was scheduled to be organized.

The security forces used tear gas near the Safir Hotel to disperse groups of FIS supporters on their way to attend this rally.

Further on Rally's Dispersal

LD0206200391 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Excerpts] A demonstration by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has been dispersed in Algiers city center: Several thousand militants of Abassi Madani's movement poured into several districts of the Algerian capital, principally at the crossroads by the main post office. Ann Diseize, you are on the line to us from Algiers:

[Diseize] [passage omitted] The atmosphere in the city this evening was very tense. A very large number of demonstrators were making their way toward the main post office when they clashed with the police who cleared the square using tear-gas grenades. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Cheney Opens Five-Day Visit to Cairo

Arrives 31 May

NC3105155091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1509 GMT 31 May 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 May (MENA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and his wife arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation that will spend five days visiting Egypt. Mr. Cheney will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Cheny was received at Cairo International Airport by Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Tantawi, his wife, and a number of senior Armed Forces commanders.

Holds Talks With Tantawi

NC0106110791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian-U.S. military talks began this morning under the chairmanship of Defense Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney.

Lt. Gen. Salah Halaby, Armed Forces chief of staff, and senior Armed Forces commanders also attended the meeting. On the American side, the members of the defense secretary's delegation and U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner were present.

The two delegations are discussing ways to bolster bilateral cooperation in various military fields including training, armaments, exchange of expertise, and making optimal use of U.S. military aid in various military spheres, particularly in defense armaments.

At the beginning of the talks, Lt. Gen. Tantawi welcomed the U.S. defense secretary and expressed satisfaction that Cheney's visit came shortly after the Egyptian defense minister assumed his new post.

The defense minister said that Egypt has distinctive relations and mutual interests with the United States. He asserted that the ties between the two countries are growing daily. This was evident in the Kuwait liberation war when Egypt backed the political efforts of the United States and the other countries in the international coalition and sent its forces to participate with the coalition forces in defending Kuwait during the crisis. He noted that Egypt did this out of its incontestable commitment to the defense of the principles and values to which it strongly adheres.

Lt. Gen. Tantawi stated that this position was motivated by Egypt's definite and sincere wish to achieve the international community's general objectives of attaining peace and stability in the Middle East. He added that it reflected the mutual strategic goals of the United States and Egypt.

Defense Minister Tantawi asserted that the Egyptian forces' competence during the Kuwait war demonstrated the importance of Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation, which includes the defense aid program and joint exercises. He pointed out that Egypt wants to continue to enhance this cooperation.

The defense minister said that the sophisticated U.S. weapons and equipment, which proved their efficiency in the Kuwait liberation war, emphasize the need to replace Egypt's old East bloc-constructed weapons that date back to the 1960's and currently represent 60 percent of the Egyptian Armed Forces' equipment. He noted that this will enable Egypt to fulfill its responsibilities and commitments with regard to establishing peace and stability in the region in this new and important era.

Richard Cheney praised the Egyptian Armed Forces' effective participation in liberating Kuwait. He said his country looks forward to enhanced cooperation with Egypt.

He added: We stress our wish to guarantee the security of Egypt and other friendly countries and to enable Egypt to have strong forces capable of deterring aggression if the need arises.

Received by Mubarak

NC0106130791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Ismailia, 1 Jun (MENA)—The talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney today dealt with the situation in the Middle East following the liberation of Kuwait. The talks also dealt with bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The talks lasted for two hours and 45 minutes, during which President Mubarak and his wife held a working lunch for the U.S. defense secretary and his wife. The luncheon was attended by Defense Minister Lieutenant General Husayn Tantawi and his wife, U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner, and some of Mr. Cheney's aides.

Attends Banquet; Tantawi Speaks

NC0206060491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 June (MENA)—Defense Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has lauded all areas of cooperation between Egypt and the United States, particularly their military cooperation. He said that this close cooperation is backed by the good ties between Presidents Husni Mubarak and George Bush, the United States' complete understanding of the region's issues, and U.S. efforts to resolve the problems in the area and spare it the catastrophies of war.

The defense minister said this during a dinner banquet in honor of U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and his delegation. Lt. Gen. Tantawi said that the U.S. leadership has demonstrated its eagerness to establish peace in a region that has been affected by various types of conflicts for a long time. He was confident that cooperation between Egypt and the United States and their full understanding of many problems in the region will open new prospects. This cooperation will enable the region's states to achieve development and construction and to live in peace.

In conclusion, the defense minister commended the spirit of cooperation between the Egyptian forces and the coalition. He also commended the friendly leadership during the Gulf crisis and the leadership's eagerness to reiterate international legitimacy within the context of the UN Charter to safeguard security and peace in the world and protect the right of human beings to enjoy a free, dignified life.

The banquet was attended by Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim, minister of state for war production; Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Egypt; senior army commanders; and the members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary.

Views Security With 'Amr Musa

NC0206182191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney this afternoon for about an hour. Following the meeting, Cheney said he held constructive talks with 'Amr Musa that dealt with a number of topics, including post-Gulf war security in the region, the Middle East peace process, and President Bush's arms limitation initiative for the region, as well as the situation in Europe and the Soviet Union. He said that this was his first meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister, and the talks were extremely fruitful.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed his thanks to Secretary Cheney for his clear presentation of the topics discussed during the meeting. He added that their talks covered issues of interest to both countries at the regional and international levels. He added that President Bush's arms limitation initiative received special attention in Egypt, and that Egypt will continue to support it—especially the limitation of weapons of mass destruction. 'Amr Musa said that the U.S. talks with Egypt and the other countries in the region will continue. He stressed that the initiatives of President Bush, President Mubarak, and other concerned countries must be taken into consideration to consolidate the procedure for regional arms limitation. He hoped that a just settlement will be reached so efforts can concentrate on developing Egypt and the region.

Asked about President Bush's arms limitation initiative and U.S. responsibility in light of Israel's stocks of nuclear weapons, 'Amr Musa said that President Bush's initiative is self-explanatory. The United States, furthermore, is committed to finding a way to limit weapons of mass destruction along with conventional weapons. He added: I refer in this respect to President Mubarak's initiative to turn the Middle East into a weapon-free zone. He added that as to whether Israel possesses nuclear weapons, it has declared that it does not have any such weapons.

Cheney's Remarks 'Conflict' With U.S. Initiative

NC0106072591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0643 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I has criticized the statements U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney made in Israel yesterday. Cheney said that U.S. military equipment is stored in Israel as a precaution against possible war. The United States, he added, funds 72 percent of the cost of producing the Israeli antimissile missile "Arrow." This, the paper says, is in basic conflict with the initiative of U.S. President George Bush.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Cheney's statements conflict with the policy announced by President Bush himself. These statements also obstruct the peace efforts in

which the United States is engaged and for which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited the region four times.

The paper says that these statements will affect U.S. credibility in the entire Arab region—credibility which reached its height during the recent Gulf crisis. These statements, the paper adds, will boost the extremist tendencies in the region by consolidating the position of those who reject the current peace efforts as well as those who refuse to deal with the West to start with. Therefore, the elements of instability and violence in the region will continue to grow unchecked, for their causes have not been eradicated.

AL-AKHBAR Denounces Cheney's Statement in Israel

NC0206052391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—In an editorial headlined "Who Is Laughing at Whom?" AL-AKHBAR denounces U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's statement during his visit to Israel about stockpiling American military equipment in Israel. The paper stresses that one must not keep silent about this, especially when the American President is calling for curbing arms exports to the Middle East.

The paper notes that Cheney's statement revealed secret plans to make Israel an impregnable fortress. Israel is not satisfied with stockpiling weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, but has formally turned into an American base equipped with the most advanced military equipment. Naturally, that equipment will not be used against the country where that base is located.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes that this American stand completely contradicts Washington's seriousness, credibility, and sincere endeavor for peace in the region.

Cheney Holds Talks, Concludes Jerusalem Visit

Received by Shamir, Arens, Levi

TA3105114691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 31 May 91

[Excerpts] U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney conferred today with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and earlier with Foreign Minister David Levi. The topics of the talks were bilateral relations, strategic cooperation, and President Bush's initiative for disarmament in the region. Our political correspondent Arye Golan sums up Cheney's meetings today:

[Begin recording] [Golan] The meeting with the prime minister and the defense minister at the Prime Minister's Office ended about 30 minutes ago. The three talked for some 45 minutes alone and were later joined by their entourages for another 30 minutes.

The prime minister expressed appreciation for the positive stance adopted by the Bush administration and Secretary Cheney with regard to the continued strategic and security cooperation with Israel. We appreciate very much the close cooperation between yourself and Minister Arens that developed during the Gulf war and continues to this day, the prime minister noted. We hope, Shamir said, that this cooperation will continue to broaden in the coming months and years and that it will find its expression in many, diverse fields.

The situation in our region after the war with Iraq is more stable but could change in the future, and we must be prepared for it, Shamir remarked. Furthermore, Shamir noted, there are vast arsenals of conventional weapons in the region, and that issue must be given priority when we talk about arms reductions in the Middle East. After all, it has been proven in five wars in the last 42 years that the main threat, the killing, and the destruction are caused by the use of conventional arms. [passage omitted]

Emerging from the meeting, Arens said that Cheney's visit had been excellent, and those who are worried about the state of relations between the two countries had better take a look at the cooperation between the two defense establishments, which work to promote common interests.

[Arens, in English] We are almost at the conclusion of Secretary Cheney's visit to Israel. From our point of view, it's really been an excellent visit to renew friendships and to talk about things that are important to the United States and to Israel. To those who now and then express concern about the state of the U.S.-Israeli relationship, I suggest that they look at the cooperation between the two defense establishments that, I think, is indicative of the common interests that the two countries share, and about how we go about promoting those interests. I thank Secretary Cheney for his visit. [passage omitted]

[Golan] Earlier this morning Cheney conferred with Foreign Minister David Levi. Levi told the U.S. visitor that Israel was the first country that, as soon as the Gulf war ended, called on the foreign ministers of all the countries of the Free World to decide on arms control in the region. Minister Levi said that today, more than ever before, understanding and cooperation between Israel and the United States are needed in view of President Bush's initiative and the growing arsenal of conventional weapons in the hands of totalitarian regimes in the region. There are questions we must discuss together as soon as possible, Levi told Secretary Cheney, who replied that the United States definitely intends to collaborate with Israel on the matter.

Levi went on to mention Israel's apprehension in light of the conventional arms build-up in the Arab countries, coupled with the continued production of chemical weapons. These very days, when the United States and Israel are energetically trying to promote the peace process, a dangerous and accelerated build-up is taking place that poses a threat to Israel. Levi mentioned Syria, Iran, Iraq, and other countries in the region in this context. [passage omitted]

[Levi] We had a very good talk as friends. We exchanged views on regional and bilateral issues. Relations between the two countries and between the two nations are based on common values of freedom and liberty. As allies, these relations are strengthening in various spheres and are better than they have ever been. We discuss and resolve every issue, even those in dispute, through understanding and openness, confident in the knowledge that the affinities between the two nations and the common interests of the two countries call for constant protection and a common outlook. This is what we did and agreed on: to dwell on the future rather than on the past.

This friendship is getting stronger. I am proud that Mr. Cheney is here. We greet him as a friend; a brave man whose views are known; a man who does not capitulate to aggression; a man who knows the needs of the State of Israel in this part of the world; a man who has contributed, and who, I have no doubt, will continue to contribute, to our cooperation in all spheres, in his capacity as an administration official in general, and as the man in charge of the defense and security policy of the United States in particular. [end recording]

Meets Knesset Members, Departs

TA3105133791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] This afternoon U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney met with several members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in a Jerusalem hotel. The main topic of discussion was President Bush's disarmament initiative for nonconventional weapons in the Middle East. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the meeting was attended by committee

chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar and by committee members Yosi Sarid, Binyamin Begin, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, and Ya'aqov Tzur.

Likud Knesset Members Ben-Elisar and Begin stressed that Israel cannot afford to gamble and take risks. Cheney told his interlocutors that the United States regards Israel as a friend and ally and its commitment to Israel is beyond any doubt.

Earlier, in a conversation with Prime Minister Shamir, Secretary Cheney said that Bush's initiative for arms limitation in the Middle East is a good offer for anyone who is worried by the situation in the region and cares for the people who live here. At the same time, there is a need for additional activity and consultations to find out whether this plan could be effectively implemented.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Cheney is now leaving for Cairo. The defense minister and the chief of staff came to bid him farewell at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Storage of Prepositioned U.S. Arms Explained

TA0206111991 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] The U.S. has authorized a total of $200m. in "pre-positioned" arms to be stored in Israel, defense officials confirmed last night.

The officials stated that the $100m. in pre-positioned weapons and ammunition mentioned in a Friday WASHINGTON POST dispatch was approved years ago, and is being delivered now after a substantial delay stemming from allied supply needs during the Gulf crisis.

The remaining $100m. has been authorized by Congress, but the details of its composition have yet to be finalized, according to Dani Nave, an aide to Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

By contrast to published reports of Israel "dictating" demands for a "pre-positioning shopping list," U.S.-Israeli talks over the nature of the arms to be housed in Israel have been conducted in an atmosphere of mutuality, Nave told THE JERUSALEM POST. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 June, in a page A3 report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Eytan Rabin, and the HA'ARETZ correspondent in the United States, states that "during the meeting between Secretary of Defense Cheney and Defense Minister Moshe Arens, it was agreed that the early warning system known as the 'hammer' would be employed in the event of the outbreak of military hostilities in the Middle East. The system comprises a network of satellites and early warning stations and was used during the Gulf War. Israeli Army sources said that this was one of the most significant achievements made during Arens' meetings with Cheney."]

Arens Interviewed on Bush's Arms Control Plan

TA0106101991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dalya Ya'ari and military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 31 May at the VIP room at Ben-Gurion Airport—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ya'ari] Mr. Defense Minister, just like after every other visit, we hear talk of agreements and disagreements. Karmela Menashe will ask you about defense-related projects, but right now let us discuss the Bush initiative. The statements you made in support of the initiative seemed somewhat reserved. Perhaps you could share your reservations with us?

[Arens] My statements were made to express the fact that not only are we in favor of disarmament in the region, but I imagine that we are more interested in this than any other party, as we are the main victim of the regional arms race, and we have already been forced to go through five wars as a result of the enormous quantities of arms in the Middle East. Nonetheless, this is a very complicated business. It is a matter of survival for us. We cannot permit any mistakes to be made by Israel or by other countries; therefore, this issue must be examined from all sides.

We will conduct talks with the United States. I spent a great deal of time discussing this issue with Secretary of Defense Cheney. We will continue to discuss this with the United States, and I assume that we will eventually reach agreement on how to proceed.

[Menashe] What are Israel's conditions for participating in the Bush initiative? Did you discuss prior conditions?

[Arens] It is not a question of conditions. We declared long ago that we considered the reduction in the quantity of weapons in the region and the calling of a halt to the Middle East arms race to be essential for the furthering of the peace process. Months before President Bush's proposal, Israel had already suggested convening a conference of both the arms-supplying countries and of the Middle East countries, in which they together would discuss limiting conventional weapons imports to the Middle East. We regard this as the most important step, and we also consider it possible. We are currently discussing the peace process, we see how difficult the peace process is and how slowly it is progressing. If we can further the issue of arms control, I believe it will add momentum to the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Ya'iri] The details of Bush's plan have still not been published, and this is actually because of your meeting with Cheney. Did the U.S. secretary of defense give you more details of the plan?

[Arens] I do not think he had to give more details, because Bush's speech was published. To the best of my knowledge, Bush's speech constitutes a declaration of the U.S. policy on this issue.

[Ya'iri] Including all the details?

[Arens] Yes, including all the details.

[Menashe] Is there no contradiction between Bush's call for arms reduction on the one hand, and Cheney's statements pointing to additional arms supplies to Israel on the other?

[Arens] No, there is no contradiction. The Americans understand what we have been saying all the time. They understand that the source of the problems posed by weapons in the region—and by the way, large quantities of conventional weapons are equal to weapons of mass destruction, and one does not have to use biological or chemical weapons—is the dissymmetry in the amount of weapons. It is not as though we have the same amount of weapons that the Arabs have and now the United States is disrupting that balance by giving us 10 F-15's. The Arabs have four, five, and in certain instances seven times the quantity of weapons we have. This constitutes a source of instability and occasionally tempts them to start wars against us. This was the problem with Iraq. Suddenly President Bush found himself facing what he called the fourth largest army in the world. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] There have been reports in recent days about the Iranian military buildup. What is Israel's view of Iran's procurement program? There are reports that Iran is trying to get nuclear weapons with the assistance of the PRC and North Korea.

[Arens] Our experience has taught us that whenever a dictatorial regime manages to accumulate vast amounts of weaponry this constitutes a danger for the world, and if it is in our region then it poses a danger to Israel. Therefore, if a regime such as the Iranian one—which is not a democracy, but rather a very extremist regime—has the means to accumulate a lot of weapons, and the regime does not use these means to raise the standard of living or rehabilitate the populace... [changes thought] And I imagine that there is room for improvement on these fields—but rather to purchase arms, and not only conventional weapons, then we are certainly concerned.

[Ya'iri] Was one of the issues you discussed with the Japanese foreign minister preventing the supply of North Korean arms to Iran?

[Arens] Yes. Japan is one of the few countries, and perhaps the only country with which we have ties—which today are good ties—that also has ties with North Korea, even though I understand that they do not maintain full diplomatic relations. Japan has ties with North Korea, and I assume that it also has some influence there; therefore, I asked Foreign Minister Nakayama to use this influence to persuade the North Koreans not to sell missiles to the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Arens Briefs Cabinet on Arms Plan, Cheney Visit

TA0206180891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel supports dealing with the nuclear weapons issue, mentioned in the initiative of U.S. President George Bush. But Arens stressed that it should be dealt with not only on the regional, but also on a global basis. Arens said that Israel is willing to sign a chemical weapons disarmament treaty.

The defense minister also briefed the cabinet on last week's visit to Israel by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney.

Sharon Discusses Construction Drive, U.S. Aid

TA0106110291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Good day, Minister Sharon.

[Sharon] A peaceful Sabbath to you.

[Talmor] The Finance Ministry has accused the Construction and Housing Ministry of signing contracts with contractors at a total cost of 1.5 billion shekels, without having the authority or legal permission to do so, and without having the budget to cover this. What will happen now? Will the contractors not get their money and will construction work halt?

[Sharon] First of all, I would like to unequivocally state that everything was done legally and that every project was handled in a legal manner through a public tender or contract, in accordance with the Construction and Housing Ministry's price list. Everything was conducted in the appropriate manner. I would also like to clarify, so that every contractor knows, that any contractor carrying out a job will be paid. As for the actual claim, there is nothing new here. The issue has been discussed for quite some time. There have been no mistakes, and certainly no negligence. The scope of construction, however, may not have been taken into account.

[Talmor] But even the director general of your ministry admits that there was a mistake in the financial estimates—how does such a thing happen?

[Sharon] No, there were no mistake in the monetary assessments. We know how to calculate the cost of the infrastructure of each apartment. When we were building 3,000 housing units a year, as was the case one year ago, things were simple. We used to build a bunch of apartments in one place and another bunch of apartments somewhere else and hook them to an existing infrastructure. From the time we started working at our present rate of activity—and we are currently at a

building rate of 100,000 housing units per year—we could no longer adopt the same procedure. It is not merely a question of the number of apartments. We have to prepare the infrastructure for each construction site.

[Talmor] So if we are to accept your statements, one may suspect that perhaps these reports point to some kind of attempt to dissuade you from continuing the accelerated construction of housing units in the territories, following Bush and Baker's statements.

[Sharon] This has nothing to do with the building in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. A widespread construction drive is under way throughout the entire country, in accordance with the government's decisions. We are not settling immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and perhaps one percent, out of the approximately 310,000 immigrants that have arrived since the end of 1989 until today, have settled in Judaea and Samaria—and even that is a maybe. Large-scale construction is under way throughout the entire country, and there is difference in linking an apartment to the grid in Ari'el, in Qdumim [West Bank settlements], or in Beersheva.

[Talmor] So, if we are to use a children's expression, it appears that you do not give a hoot about Bush's and Baker's accusations, and the accelerated rate of construction in the territories will continue.

[Sharon] The issue is not whether we employ this or that expression [laughing], which by the way is one I do not generally use. The question is not my personal position on the matter. I am an Israeli Government minister responsible for construction activity, and I carry out government policy. The Israeli Government's policy clearly stipulates settlement in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Talmor] But the statements coming from Washington are very clear and sharp-edged these days. Do you not fear the possible ramifications?

[Sharon] I think that when discussing fundamental issues, issues that are linked to our very lives and survival, we can only be swayed by considerations that are related to the same. Of course, I disagree with the concept which asserts that the settlements constitute an obstacle to peace. I believe that Jewish settlements in the important strategic areas where we set them up do not consititute an obstacle to peace. I would rather term them a barrier to war.

[Talmor] So what will you, Mr. Sharon, the government, and the Israeli people in general do if the United States, for example, responds to the continued construction drive in the territories by reducing its economic assistance and by limiting the aid it gives us for immigrant absorption?

[Sharon] I would again like to stress that construction in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is being carried out at a rate proportionate to the building under way in the rest of Eretz Yisra'el. We are building on a very large scale throughout the entire country, and we are building in the territories at a similar rate. As for the attempt to use the funds for immigrant absorption as a kind of stick to threaten us with: I think that we should remind our good friend the United States—and the United States really is our great friend, but we are also its greatest friend—that this is a humanitarian issue of the first degree. It should not, in any event, be linked to this or that political resolution. The two things should not be linked. The Soviet Jews must be permitted to escape the peril they are in and to reach a safe refuge. The two issues should not be linked. We must explain this in the clearest manner possible and all of Israel's friends, world Jewry, and each and every one of us should help in this effort. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Said To Want Meeting With Israelis

JN0106151091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has stated that there is need for direct talks between him and Israel's leaders as soon as possible. Our correspondent in Paris says that King Husayn's statement came in an interview with him published today by the French magazine LE POINT.

In answer to a question, King Husayn said that it is premature to discuss such a topic but that the direct meeting must be held soon. He added that such a meeting would enable everyone to rid himself of fears and doubts. He also stressed that the ban on meetings with Israelis must come to an end.

Willingness To Meet Affirmed

TA0206084091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jun 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Paris correspondent Bo'az Bismuth, Smadar Peri, Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi, and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A Jordanian personality close to King Husayn has revealed to YEDI'OT AHARONOT that in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in al-'Aqabah the Jordanian king stated: "I am prepared to meet Israel's leaders. I have no problems with meeting Israelis. For the sake of peace, I am ready to get into my car and drive to Israel myself, across the Jordan River bridges, so as to demonstrate the link between both banks of the Jordan River."

The senior Jordanian personality went on to say that King Husayn had emphasized to Secretary Baker that his agreement to confer with "the top echelon of the Israeli establishment" stems from the fact that he is the king of Jordan, and this should in no way be interpreted to mean that the Jordanian king was coming to meet the Israeli leaders on behalf of the Palestinians. "The Palestinians will represent themselves and, if they wish so, we will host them in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," the source added.

In talks held last week in Amman between Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Executive Committee's Political Department, and King Husayn, it was agreed to hold a summit meeting between the Jordanian king, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and the head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations.

The Jordanians consent to have this summit launch the peace talks between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Jordanians also agree to hold such a summit without any preconditions whatsoever, except the Palestinians' consent. [passage omitted]

[A report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Moti Bassok on pages 1 and 4 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 2 June quotes Palestinian sources close to Jordan in Nablus as saying that "the contacts King Husayn held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and Israel are behind the king's latest statements. According to the sources, al-Asad agreed not to thwart Husayn's efforts to form a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation whose Palestinian delegates would come from the territories only. In exchange, the Americans gave al-Asad the green light to sign the brotherhood pact with Lebanon. Furthermore, the sources noted, Syria agreed to put off discussions about the Golan Heights for another three to five years to enable the Jordanian-Palestinian move. Once Syria has consolidated its hold in Lebanon, it will join the talks, the sources remarked, adding that the Syrians informed the PLO delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi which visited Damascus last week about it."]

"We know from our own sources that the interview granted by the king to the French magazine LE POINT triggered reactions in Israel, and reactions are a good thing," a senior official in King Husayn's palace in Amman told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night. The senior official was not surprised to get a phone call from Israel. "We are aware of the reverberations," the official said. At the same time, he stressed that "the above-mentioned interview" took place over three weeks ago, on 12 May, and said he was not sure why its publication had been held up.

More to the point, the official said, "we will not react or comment on the LE POINT interview until we have seen it and compared it with his majesty's words." [passage omitted]

It is assessed in Jerusalem that Secretary Baker's meeting with the Syrian foreign minister in Lisbon was meant to soften Syria's demand that a conference on peace in the Middle East should be held under UN auspices. It is believed that Baker will not be coming back to Israel any time soon.

The independent position displayed by King Husayn toward the peace process "casts a slightly different light on the assessment of the king's loss of power," an Israeli political source stated last night. "Clearly, the latest political moves announced by the king conflict with the position of the fundamentalists in Jordan. Therefore, the assessment that Islamic elements had a hold over the king would seem to have been rather far-fetched."

Israeli Officials React to King Husayn's Call

Shamir Adviser Responds

TA0106162091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Jordan's King Husayn has said that there is a need for face-to-face meetings between himself and Israel's leaders, and soon. Interviewed in the French weekly LE POINT, Husayn was asked about such a meeting. He replied: It is still too soon to talk about it, although I believe that this must happen soon. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts, reports that Husayn has also confirmed that he approves of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for the peace talks.

In reaction to this interview, the prime minister's adviser [not further identified] said that Yitzhaq Shamir is very interested in meeting King Husayn. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Jerusalem hopes that King Husayn indeed intends to meet Israel's leaders. Sources in Jerusalem also expressed their satisfaction with King Husayn's willingness to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and said that this is the most desirable thing.

Meridor Comments on Overture

TA0206065191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] People are encouraged but trying not to get euphoric, despite the fact that King Husayn's statement constitutes a development. Is that so?

[Meridor] That is correct. When such a statement is made by a neighboring Arab leader such as King Husayn, even if only in a newspaper interview, the first, immediate, and unqualified reaction is that we are glad about it, that we would like to hold such a meeting in public and face-to-face any time and as soon as possible. This is the only correct reaction, and this is how we reacted. We wish this is indeed the case.

The next reaction which we must bear in mind is that we must not get carried away with enthusiasm until we have ascertained that the statement is for real and is not just rhetoric. If the former is true, this means that Jordan is prepared to go alone, free of the Syrian chains that have tied it to date, without fear of all the threats being directed at it. I very much hope this will turn out to be a positive change in Jordan's attitude that will enable us to make a significant turnabout in the peace process.

[Zohar] Seeing that there have been numerous reports in the past about meetings between King Husayn and Israeli leaders, perhaps there is nothing new in the king's latest statements.

[Meridor] I do not want to comment on reports about events in the past. There is a very big difference between press reports about secret meetings and a public and open meeting between Israel and an Arab country, as proven by the meeting with al-Sadat or any other similar encounter. I think there is a big difference because of what we perceive as the chief problem in the Arab world, which is accepting Israel as one of many countries in the region rather than seeing it as an abnormal, alien, and extraneous creature. If there are Arab leaders who are prepared to cross this Rubicon, I think that is very important.

[Dan] At the moment, what is that precludes the summoning of at least a regional conference with the participation of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians?

[Meridor] First of all, the unwillingness of the non-Israeli side—the Jordanians and the Palestinians—to attend such a meeting.

[Dan] The Jordanians have so far spoken about their dependence on Syria, but King Husayn's statement would actually seem to do away with this dependence.

[Meridor] That is the question I am asking, while you state it as a fact; I hope you are right. If the king's statement really means that despite Syria's objection Jordan is prepared to attend a conference with Israel and agrees to a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation along the lines of our proposal, I see it as a very positive and significant change and even as a breakthrough. Having said that, I would be very cautious not to use very pompous words before we have ascertained that this assumption is correct.

[Zohar] Although what would seem to be at stake is a face-to-face meeting, the commentaries in this morning's papers say that King Husayn's statement is a sort of confirmation that he is prepared to go to such a meeting. Do you share this assessment?

[Meridor] I would be wary to make such an analysis. If it is true, then we have hardly made any progress. If what Jordan is saying is that it is ready to attend a conference but it wants to wait and see whether the Syrians will, and if the latter persist in their opposition then nothing will have happened. However, if the meaning of the king's statement is that Jordan is prepared to go alone—that is, without Syria; just with Egypt and Israel—this will have been a major turning point. In any event, such statements are positive on their own merit. Even if a meeting does not come out of it—and I hope it will—this will indeed have been a positive step forward. [interview disrupted because of interference from another phone call]

[Zohar] We seem to have another phone call on the line, but I expect this to be rectified soon.

[Meridor] Do you see how difficult it is to hold a conference call? Between two, Israel and Jordan, it would be much easier.

[Zohar] This was not planned. Even if our phone connection is poor, I think we could still hear you—and I believe this would be heard loud and clear in Jordan—if you called on King Husayn to come to Jerusalem.

[Meridor] I think such a call has been issued many times before by all Israeli governments. I remember the Likud government in 1977 calling on King Husayn to come here, and I have no doubt that the prime minister will be prepared and glad to greet the king in Jerusalem or any other venue to be determined at once. The question is whether the king will be as willing. Not only are we willing, but we have called on him to do that through the years.

[Dan] How do you explain the current timing of King Husayn's statement?

[Meridor] I cannot explain it with any measure of certainty. After all, there is a great deal of activity going on. The Americans are holding contacts, there are contacts between other parties in the region, and there are inter-Arab contacts. I think Jordan does not want to be left out. For some reason, the Americans are mainly trying to establish a dialogue with the Syrians because they are the tougher nut to crack, while no effort is being made with regard to those considered good boys. Perhaps this is the way the king chose to say: I am also here, and I am the partner to talk to. I hope this is so.

Netanyahu Outlines Issues

TA0206155391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good day, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Friedman] In the case of King Husayn—as distinguished from other hypothetical negotiations being spoken about—the problems of procedure and framework have all been solved, and we can immediately begin to talk essence. What peace agreement is Israel offering Jordan?

[Netanyahu] I think you should leave that to the negotiations. I am glad to hear that you believe that problems of procedure are solved.

[Friedman] He said he is willing to get in his car and drive here across the Jordan River.

[Netanyahu] If you closely examine the remarks that were made, you will find some of them attributed to one official or another. Naturally, if the message itself—clear or unclear as it may be—does express King Husayn's

willingness to start political negotiations with us, we are all for it. I say welcome, and immediately.

[Levi] How will the peace agreement look? Will it be a Jordanian-Palestinian federation, as he said he accepts?

[Netanyahu] Look, the issues that need agreement between us and Jordan are very complicated. Primarily, there is the border question: We have our demands, and they have theirs. I assume that they will say the border should be the Yarqon River [in Tel Aviv] and we will say it is the Jordan River. This is one very difficult question that will have to be dealt with. There is also the question of the status of the Arab residents of the territory, which in any scenario will remain under Israeli rule. Today most of them are Jordanian citizens, and I personally would like them to remain Jordanian citizens after a permanent agreement is reached. That means we will have to discuss the status of the residents separately from the status of the territory. There is the question of the availability and openness of the our seaports—Ashdod, Haifa, or others that may be built—for the use of Jordan. At the same time, we would like to use Jordan as a channel to the Arab markets we would like to reach. There are many other questions, such as water and ecology. We have a lot to discuss. The basic question is: Are they willing to sit down with us? If they are, we are too, naturally.

[Friedman] Is King Husayn our partner for the discussion of our eastern territorial border, or are the Palestinians our partners for that?

[Netanyahu] We have always said that we would like to discuss that issue with Jordan. That is not the position of the current government only. We have always said that we want to hold peace negotiations about our eastern border and all of its aspects with Jordan. The missing link up to this day was Jordan's willingness to sit down openly and talk to us. If indeed things have changed—and I am not yet certain they have—then there really is a breakthrough.

[Levi] Have any contacts been held with the Jordanians since the king's statement—through U.S. channels, for example, or other diplomatic channels?

[Netanyahu] Contacts are being held all the time, and not only through a single channel. As you well know, we have constant contacts to try to bring Jordan to the negotiating table. I would say that the main—perhaps even the only—obstacle to making peace in this way is a lack of willingness on King Husayn's part to show the necessary courage and do what al-Sadat did. What eventually made al-Sadat do what he did were forces in his personality, and his recognition that the way of peace is the only way. Is Husayn currently in al-Sadat's psychological state? Can he find the mental resources to stand up and make the move we have been waiting and hoping for? That still remains to be seen.

[Friedman] Is the moment close when various Israeli leaders will say: What is the big deal? [previous two words in English] I have met him several times in the past. It is said that many Israeli leaders have done so.

[Netanyahu] I have personally met with representatives of Arab countries with which we have no diplomatic relations. I did that in the United Nations and when I served as Israel's consul in Washington. That is not the case here. Different contacts with Arab leaders and representatives have been held and are still being held these very days. Things are absolutely different when a leader of an Arab country is ready to stand up [and meet us] openly. As you well know, the bridge is open on our end. If he so desires, he may indeed get into his car—if that was indeed said—and come to Jerusalem immediately. So far, we have not seen that, and we have not seen his side of the bridge opened. If it is opened, let there be no doubt in your mind, the State of Israel and its leaders will be on that bridge in no time.

[Friedman] Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Shamir 'Always Ready' To Talk

TA0206163491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] We are always ready to meet any leader of an Arab country and talk peace with him, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said in his first reaction to the declaration made by King Husayn. Our correspondent in Haifa, Qobi Mandel, heard the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We are always ready to meet any leader of any Arab country and talk peace with him.

[Mandel] Does this mean the revival of the Jordanian option?

[Shamir] We are not talking about options here. We are talking of a willingness—true willingness, I hope—to move toward peace. [end recording]

Shamir's Office Responds

TA0206090791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Jun 91 pp A1, A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Shma'ya Qeydar, Avi Pinto, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] "Prime Minister Shamir is interested in meeting King Husayn." This was the reaction last night by sources in the Prime Minister's Bureau to the interview given by the king to the French newspaper LE POINT, in which he expressed support for "face-to-face contacts with Israel," in order to "guarantee peace for the coming generations."

Shamir's bureau also welcomed the king's remarks about his desire to launch direct talks with Israel and on his readiness to set up a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the planned Middle East peace conference.

The prime minister himself preferred to wait for verification of the reports before issuing an official reaction.

Meanwhile, Fu'ad 'Ayyub, King Husayn's personal spokesman, in a telephone interview with MA'ARIV, stated that the king and the Jordanian people believe there is hope to achieve peace with Israel and throughout the entire region. "We must cast away all the cliches and go to a regional peace conference," he said during a phone conversation with the MA'ARIV correspondent in London.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the head of Shamir's bureau revealed that several days ago, in a private setting, Shamir had voiced the opinion that King Husayn was the only Arab leader who really wished to further the peace process. Shamir, therefore, believes that efforts should be focused on launching a dialogue with Jordan right after the official opening of the peace conference that will be held in Washington, under the sponsorship of President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 2 May in a page 1 report by David Makovsky, Michel Zlotowski, and news agencies adds that "Yosi Ahime'ir, head of Prime Minister Shamir's bureau, expressed satisfaction last night over Husayn's statement. 'We welcome it. We're willing to meet with every Arab leader and certainly with King Husayn. His remarks fit with signals we have been receiving from others that Jordan is the most serious element willing to discuss peace with Israel."]

Ne'eman Fears U.S. Pressure

TA0206165291 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Interview with Yuval Ne'eman, energy and infrastructure, science and technology minister, by Dan Shilon in the television studio—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Professor Ne'eman, without King Husayn, and without the representation the Palestinians would like to see meeting with leaders of the State of Israel, we must come to the conclusion that we are to live by our sword alone.

[Ne'eman] Look, nations can decide not to live by the sword, but if they want to live and have no other alternative, they may be forced to resort to the sword. Lambs could decide to live peacefully with wolves, but we know that the adage about the wolf who shall dwell with the lamb can only become realistic at the end of days. Until then, a daily supply of new lambs will be needed if we regard that as true.

Since you asked, however, I will say this: If I were certain that we would be discussing peace for peace with King Husayn, and if I could be certain that whatever happened in Transjordan—whether the Palestinians replaced him or not—our agreement with him would remain valid....

[Shilon, interrupting] You know perfectly well he is not coming here on the basis of peace for peace sake.

[Ne'eman] That's right. My fear is that he will be coming on the basis of American backing, on the assumption that despite the Israeli prime minister's statement against the territories-for-peace approach—and I am glad he has stated as much.... [changes thought] King Husayn is in fact banking on the assumption that the United States will exert pressure to make us give up territories in return for peace. If that is the situation, I am greatly concerned, because unlike the case of Sinai, where there was fear of creating a precedent for Judaea and Samaria, now the issue is no longer one of creating a precedent; it is a life-and-death issue now.

[Shilon] Would that mean you are nearing the end of your ministerial career?

[Ne'eman] If the situation develops into a discussion of territories for peace, I will certainly have nothing to do in this cabinet.

[Shilon] Minister Yuval Ne'eman, thank you for coming to our Tel Aviv studio.

Levi Invites King to Jerusalem

TA0206110391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1050 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, do you want and are you ready to invite King Husayn to Jerusalem for peace talks?

[Levi] I think that the wording of King Husayn's announcement in the LE POINT interview indicates—at least this is what I hope—support for direct negotiations with Israel, and this is something that entails hope and is a courageous statement on his part. We welcome it and I invite him to come to Jerusalem. He will find here an Israeli Government ready to hold discussions with him in order to promote the peace process, which is our goal. There is no reason for any further delays.

Israel is also prepared to go to Amman. Any leader of a neighboring country making similar statements will find Israel welcoming him and ready to meet him at any time and any place without any delays. Hence, if King Husayn gave expression to this position, he is hereby invited to Jerusalem. We will gladly receive him with a red carpet and with a band.

[Golan] Will you tell him what Minister Sharon wants to tell him, that Jordan is Palestine and that he actually does not represent anything?

[Levi] Let us forget about the statements of this or that man. There is a single government policy which favors direct negotiations with Israel's neighbors. The statement made by King Husayn, who is the head of an existing sovereign state, should be encouraging. Israel is both encouraged and encouraging about such a statement.

Peres Sees Opportunity

TA0206112191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says he hopes the opportunity created in the wake of King Husayn's statements will not be missed. Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Peres emphasized that he has no doubt that King Husayn's statement enjoys U.S. backing. According to him, the way is now open for the summoning of a regional conference.

Cabinet Discusses Remarks

TA0206120491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Gutman] Good morning from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The weekly cabinet meeting is about to end. As could be expected, one of the disputed issues was King Husayn's announcement on his readiness to come and meet with our leaders. Foreign Minister David Levi said at the meeting: This announcement indicates a direction that should be encouraged; it underlines the justness of our demand for direct negotiations. The announcement should be examined further, but there is no doubt that this kind of declaration reflects a realistic approach and courage, said Foreign Minister David Levi.

Two ministers have approached our broadcasting van. Minister Moshe Qatzav, do you share this stand?

[Qatzav] Certainly. I welcome King Husayn's announcement. I hope he will have sufficient courage to implement it. I also hope that, in the course of the talks, we will be able to realize our expectations and to achieve peace.

[Gutman] Thank you. Minister Yuval Ne'eman from Tehiya, is there room for optimism?

[Ne'eman] My view of the developments differs from that of the majority of Cabinet ministers. I see King Husayn as a man who has no say in this region. He gave up Judaea and Samaria in a long public speech in September 1988 and is therefore not the place to address our expectations. Jordan itself, or rather Transjordan, has a Palestinian majority and King Husayn's observations or decisions, therefore, interest no one.

[Gutman] Thank you, Minister Yuval Ne'eman.

Now for the rest of the weekly cabinet meeting. Minister David Levi reviewed the political process. He protested the ministers' remarks, saying that the political process has run aground or expired, adding that Israel has no interest in such statements which are untrue and unhelpful. All they can achieve for us is to draw accusations that we would like the process to stall or make us look as if we were accusing others. Levi reported on his departure for Europe tomorrow, where he will discuss the inclusion of the European troika in the process.

Most of the discussion, however, focused on the statement that Jordan is Palestine. Minister Ari'el Sharon said: Israel must declare that Jordan is Palestine. It should categorically oppose any Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and the granting of any status whatsoever to Europe in the process. Reacting sharply to these remarks, Minister David Levi said: These are puzzling remarks. Why were they made? I will allow each of you to fathom the answer, he said. The cabinet has one single policy and anyone who thinks there is a double policy is mistaken. The demand to announce that Jordan is Palestine does not reflect the government's policy and this fact should be made clear, said Foreign Minister David Levi in reaction to Sharon's remarks.

He added: The demand to oppose a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is also puzzling. In the debates the cabinet has held, there was demand to act to create such a joint delegation. The person who had demanded this in the past is now opposed to it. What is the meaning of this fickleness and what end does it serve? Is he serious, asked Minister David Levi, adding: Each time it seems our positions are about to make progress, someone says the opposite of what he did in the past. There is a need for plain speaking, Mr. Prime Minister. The cabinet cannot make ambiguous pronouncements, and there is a need to clarify things here and now.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did indeed clarify: The cabinet stands have not changed, and there is no room for appeals. Nothing was delayed, because the foreign minister has pursued his mission of promoting issues on which we had agreed. Turning to Minister Levi, the prime minister said: Do not mind all this. If someone wants to appeal something, let him turn to the ministerial committee. You just go on ahead.

Pazner Urges Caution

TA0206145591 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, in the Jerusalem studio, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, is in our Jerusalem studio. Good evening to you.

[Pazner] An excellent evening.

[Shilon] Is the red carpet being rolled out yet?

[Pazner] A red carpet would be somewhat premature, although undoubtedly there is satisfaction with King Husayn's remarks to LE POINT. I believe, however, we should examine the king's intentions through nonpublic channels. Despite all the satisfaction we in Jerusalem feel—and there is satisfaction in Jerusalem—a modicum of caution, long-range vision, and planning is in order.

[Shilon] Why caution? Why probe his intentions? Why not welcome him heartily and say: Welcome to Jerusalem; let us talk directly, without any preconditions? What else is there to examine?

[Pazner] We have told him: Welcome. We certainly have. Past experience shows, however, that remarks made to a foreign newspaper may be followed by clarifications. This has to be taken into account. It remains true, however, that we are ready to sit down to direct talks without mediation absolutely anywhere. That is what the State of Israel has desired since its establishment, and I hope it comes true. So far, it has only materialized with Egypt. I hope it happens with another important Arab country, such as Jordan.

[Shilon] If foreign reports are to be believed, this would not be the first time Israeli leaders would be meeting with King Husayn.

[Pazner] Well, you know, the world reports many things. We are talking here about what the king said to LE POINT yesterday; namely, it is time to abandon the public taboo on meetings with Israel. We concur with that wholeheartedly. The fact that Arab countries have never agreed to hold talks with us was one of the gravest problems. If another Arab leader is ready to sit down to talks with us, another important step forward will be taken.

[Shilon] You must be aware that Shim'on Peres is rubbing his hands with satisfaction today, saying: I told you so; King Husayn is the one partner.

[Pazner] We are not talking now about King Husayn alone; we are talking about a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which is expected to solve many problems that impeded many of our past peace efforts. In the past, the PLO torpedoed possible encounters time and again. We believe that, this time, the fact that King Husayn himself is talking of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation can help solve the problem.

[Shilon] Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, thank you for coming to our Jerusalem studio.

Sharon on 'Preconditions'

TA0306070691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpts] [Dan] Good morning, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Dan] How should we reply to the message received from President Bush? By the way, have you read it?

[Sharon] No, I hope the contents of the message will be presented at the next cabinet meeting.

[Dan] In the meantime, allow us to rely on information arriving from Syria, according to which Bush is in fact organizing a summit meeting in the United States to be attended by heads of Arab states, Yitzhaq Shamir, and President Bush himself. How should we reply to such a proposal?

[Sharon] Israel is interested in peace; Israel is interested in holding contacts with Arab countries. In my view, such a meeting can definitely be a positive thing.

[Zohar] Even if coming as a unilateral initiative of the U.S. President, without a prior agreement through mediation between us and the Syrians or between us and the Jordanians?

[Sharon] Obviously, no settlement can be reached or solutions forced on Israel in such a meeting. Israel's positions on these issues are known. I believe the very fact that such a meeting is held and that the United States is organizing it can contribute as much as any other meeting could.

[Dan] Mr. Sharon, we would like to clarify something because you have surprised us a little. Are you saying that if Israel receives an invitation, it should go to Washington without any preconditions?

[Sharon] No, no, I have never said without preconditions.

[Dan] What are the conditions?

[Sharon] I do not know what the message says. When I have read it, I will be able to refer to it. As a rule, no such meeting can be held without conditions. There are conditions with regard to a whole series of issues. These are not necessarily the conditions which Israel should present; but if a peace process is to be launched in the Middle East, there are certain imperative conditions, and I have reiterated my views on this issue many times.

My position is that this issue should be approached on the basis of a wide front. We must have peace with Arab countries, beginning with those with which we share no border and have no territorial dispute, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This should be the first, the immediate step; and this is one issue which the United States should force on the parties. There is no reason why it should not force Saudi Arabia and Kuwait into accepting this. [passage omitted]

[Zohar] We have not heard Jerusalem express an unequivocal position on the question of separate Jordanian and Palestinian delegations or a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. What is your position?

[Sharon] My position on this issue is clear: There is to be one Jordanian delegation. De facto, Jordan is the Palestinian state, and its delegation will represent the Palestinian problem. The Jordanians can include Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—though not PLO people or residents of East Jerusalem—as an integral, indivisible part of their own delegation.

[Zohar] Why can they not call it a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Sharon] No, the difference lies elsewhere. The difference lies in the fact that a separate delegation hiding under the patronage of the Jordanian delegation is unacceptable, because it is likely to become an independent delegation at a later stage. It is always to be one joint delegation; because if two delegations emerge later, we will in fact be laying the foundation for a second Palestinian entity, namely, a second Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. [passage omitted]

Abu-Zayyad Welcomes Husayn's Remarks on Talks

TA0206112691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, the editor of the Hebrew-Arabic newspaper GESHER, has welcomed King Husayn's statements regarding talks with Israel. Abu-Zayyad told reporter Dani Gur-Arye that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation could be the key to solving Palestinian representation at a peace conference.

[Begin Abu-Zayyad recording] I think that is a good idea. If there is any way to solve this question of representation, of who will represent the Palestinians, and if the Israelis want to avoid talking directly to the PLO, and they say that they want to speak to a joint delegation—why not? Again I tell you, my point is that we must talk to each other. Also King Husayn said: We should get rid of all these cliches and slogans and we should look at the substance. [end recording]

Bethlehem Mayor Hails 'Courageous' Statement

TA0206194891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Report by territories correspondent Amir Hay with recorded remarks in English by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian street showed no unusual reactions following the remarks attributed to King Husayn. The East Jerusalem dailies devoted much space to reporting the remarks, but the editorials contained no comment on them. That fact probably indicates that the editors are waiting for the PLO reaction. We spoke to two Palestinian notables to hear their assessment of Husayn's remarks.

[Begin Frayj recording] The king is a very careful person. He uses words very carefully. I think he made a very courageous and positive statement. This circle of violence and hatred and wars in this region must be stopped, and peace has to be achieved. How can you achieve peace unless all the parties concerned talk to each other? Now all the Arab countries and Israel accept the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. All the Arab countries and Israel are talking about peace, peace, peace. Talk is not enough. Now the king has suggested action. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Frayj recording] I know last week there was a high Palestinian delegation in Jordan. Then there was a high Palestinian delegation in Damascus. So the Palestinians, Syrians, and Jordanians are talking with each other. Now we have to decide on one thing: Do we want peace, or do we want to continue with this crazy situation? In order to achieve peace, all the parties concerned must negotiate with each other, and live with each other. You cannot live, as the King said, in taboo. [end recording]

Egyptian Envoy Views Jordan's Role in Process

TA0306053591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Egypt is optimistic with regard to King Husayn's statement. This is what we can conclude from the remarks of Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, who says that if King Husayn indeed made the remarks attributed to him, Israel has a serious Arab partner with whom it can negotiate.

[Begin Basyuni recording, in English] Really, if King Husayn said that, it means that there is a real Arab partner to the peace process. In this case, Israel must put it in consideration and go ahead for the peace process, because there is a partner; now, there is a very clear partner. [end recording]

Media Respond to King Husayn's Statements

Hold Husayn to His Word

TA0206114491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "To Hold Him and Us to Our Words"]

[Text] Our natural reaction is to ask what it was that was promised to King Husayn to make him dare to come out with such a far-reaching statement about the need for direct talks with Israel's leaders? The natural reaction of a country that has experienced Arab opposition is to doubt and suspect. After all, this is the same Husayn who up until a few months ago was an ally of Saddam and was almost licking his feet.

Husayn did not suddenly become a pussycat. He has interests; everybody has. He can tell that there is one power leading the world, and that is the United States. He was told in no uncertain terms what he should do to atone for his sins, and he is doing just that. He was

apparently promised that al-Asad would not stand in the way. Al-Asad has interests of his own, and he is reading the world map correctly.

And what about Israel? Israel greeted Husayn's announcement with satisfaction. After all, as we have repeatedly stated, we are interested in direct talks, and this is the course we suggested. Perhaps the time has now come to say something slightly more exciting. Shamir is not Begin, and Husayn is not al-Sadat. The reaction to the king's declaration must be a broad gesture: inviting him to Jerusalem, saying we are willing to travel to Amman, and holding him to his word so as to create a historic moment, seeing that such opportunities are rare. Of course, this holds true if we also mean what we say.

U.S. Pressure Necessary

TA0206141891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Jun 91 p 1

[Commentary by Dan Avidan: "The King Also Wants To Be Involved"]

[Text] King Husayn's declaration of readiness to meet with Israeli leaders to promote the political process stems from his desire to take an active and central part in Baker's initiative. This turnabout in Husayn's stand appears to have come in the wake of recent American appeals, in which he was asked by various personages, including President Bush himself, to increase his involvement in the political process.

The king was further encouraged to take the political initiative by the statements of official Israeli spokesmen, who said that Israel would welcome Jordanian participation in the political process, which includes the Palestinian question. It can be presumed that Husayn would not have proclaimed a desire to meet with Israeli leaders had this move not received the backing of Egypt and Syria, which he has visited recently.

If King Husayn and Israeli ministers, including the prime minister, do hold talks, they are almost certain to run aground, because each side will stick to its position on the Baker initiative, as well as on the procedural issues. This is to be expected because King Husayn will not be free to deviate from the conventional Arab position that the United Nations should play an "effective" role in the regional conference, and that the conference should be an ongoing one.

In fact, any statement such as the one Husayn made yesterday has no great value unless the United States uses it as a lever to press the sides to adopt more flexible stands.

Commentary Reacts Favorably

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

JN0206162691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1335 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Esteemed listeners: Fully convinced that direct talks with Arab leaders comprise the shortest route and the ideal forum to engendering peace—long sought by the people of the Middle East region—Israel has all along advocated that line. Hence the prominence given by the media to the interview conducted by the Paris weekly LE POINT with King Husayn in which the Jordanian monarch said he was prepared to sit for direct negotiations with Israel and public face-to-face meetings with Israeli officials in the interest of peace. Not surprisingly, the top echelons of the Israeli Government and Israeli press and political circles reacted with equal enthusiasm to the king's remarks.

Observers note that since 1963, King Husayn has met with a good many top Israeli officials, including four prime ministers, four foreign ministers, three defense ministers, and a chief of staff. However, this is the first time the Jordanian monarch has stated his willingness to meet publicly and face-to-face with Israeli officials. Surely this is a constructive, positive development to be welcomed by all peace-loving people that could perhaps correct the extremely negative image created by King Husayn aligning himself with the Saddam Husayn camp and his Kuwait fiasco, and his cheering as Saddam Husayn fired missiles at the children and women of Israel.

It is our sincere hope that King Husayn's statements to LE POINT are a true indication that the Jordanian monarch has once and for all abandoned his customary equivocation which has typified his policies over the past two decades. It is more important, though, that there be good faith and a sincere leaning toward the peace option, which remains in the best interests of all people. Peace has never been, nor can it ever be, a favor bestowed by one party upon others.

Japanese Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Reviews DPRK Missile Sales

OW3105162391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Jerusalem, May 31 KYODO—Japan will urge North Korea to put a halt to its exports of Scud missiles to Syria and other nations, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Friday. Nakayama made the statement during talks with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens, according to Japanese officials accompanying the foreign minister during his seven-day Middle Eastern tour. Nakayama told Arens Japan will take up the issue of the missile exports during upcoming diplomatic normalization talks with North Korea.

"Japan is also concerned about the problem," Nakayama was quoted as telling Arens during the talks, which took place at the official residence of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He made the remarks in response to a request by the Israeli defense minister that Japan pressure North Korea to contribute to protecting the regional security of the strife-torn Middle East.

Israel does not have any diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, while Japan has held three rounds of normalization talks with country. Pyongyang also has been trying hard to improve its economic and political relations with Tokyo in an apparent bid to attract Japanese technological and financial support for its flagging economy and to avoid being ostracized by the international community.

During the talks, Arens blasted North Korea for increasing the threat to regional security in the Middle East by exporting missiles to Syria and other nations. The Japanese Government has obtained through diplomatic channels information that North Korea has been peddling dozens of Soviet-designed Scud missiles to Syria and Iran since before the Gulf war, Foreign Ministry sources said. Moscow has been Pyongyang's chief ally and major supplier of military aid. During the war in the Persian Gulf, Iraq launched Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia, in an apparent effort to provoke Israel to retaliate and thereby run the risk of involving Iranian and Syrian troops on the side of Iraq.

Meanwhile, in a separate summit meeting, Shamir told Nakayama that Israel wants a proposed Middle East peace conference to be held in Washington, if it comes about, the Japanese officials accompanying Nakayama said. Shamir's statement represented a turnaround from Israel's staunch opposition to the proposed peace conference, as it had earlier balked at a proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker recommending that Israel join the conference to help bridge the diplomatic Gulf with its Arab neighbors.

In the mid-May talks between Baker and Shamir, Israel reportedly rejected U.S.-backed compromise proposals on what role the United Nations should be allowed to play at the peace conference and on whether such a conference should be held periodically.

During the talks with Nakayama, Shamir said he did not expect a peace conference to produce significant results and that Israel need not depend on any peace-brokering nation or international organization to defend its security, the officials said. He also sounded negative on a proposal to hold a Middle East peace conference periodically, they said.

Nakayama urged Shamir to take a more realistic and flexible position to alleviate hostilities with neighboring Arab nations in order to achieve peace in the region. Shamir, however, said Israel prefers to seek agreement with Arab neighbors on the issue of the Israeli-occupied territories through bilateral talks rather than through multilateral talks with several Arab nations. Such multilateral talks with Arab nations would not lead to any significant outcome, he said.

Shamir urged Nakayama to actively help finance an Israeli-proposed program to solicit 2 billion dollars from the international community to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees over the next 10 years, the Japanese officials said. Nakayama did not respond affirmatively to the request, they said.

The foreign minister called on Shamir to alter his policy of refusing to hand back the occupied territories and expediting the resettlement of Jewish workers in the occupied lands, the officials said. They added that Japan prefers to funnel its aid money to Palestinian refugees through the United Nations than comply with an Israeli-proposed aid program.

Meets Palestinian Notables

TA0106113391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] The Palestinian leaders who met with the Japanese foreign minister this morning mainly requested political and economic assistance. Mrs. Hannan 'Ashrawi said that she and her colleagues believed that Japan could play a greater role in furthering the peace process.

The spokesman for the Japanese foreign minister told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that Minister Taro Nakayama would recommend that the Japanese Government help the Palestinians living in refugee camps. He said that Tokyo's policy had always been to cooperate with the Arabs living in the territories. He pointed out that, during Nakayama's talks in Jerusalem, the minister had stressed that Israel must stop setting up settlements in the territories and that Japan would like to play a larger role in the peace process.

Foreign Minister Nakayama toured the al-Duhayshah refugee camp this morning and inaugurated a community center built with funds donated by the Japanese Government.

Pledges Aid to Palestinians

OW0106125491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Jerusalem, June 1 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama pledged Saturday that Japan will continue to aid Palestinian refugees through international organizations.

Nakayama, on a weeklong tour of the Middle East, made the remark in a speech at the opening of a community center for Palestinians completed near Jerusalem with Japan's aid.

Nakayama attended the ceremony before going to see a Palestinian refugee camp in an Israeli-occupied area about 20 kilometers south of Jerusalem.

He later met with about 10 Palestinian leaders at a hotel in Jerusalem and reiterated Japan's policy calling for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and granting rights of self-determination to the Palestinian people.

Palestinian representatives expressed hope for the strengthening of relations between Japan and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Comments on Peace Process Role

TA0206110791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] Japan will only seek to join a Middle East peace conference if explicitly asked to by countries in the region, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in an interview Friday.

Nakayama, who just completed two days of talks with senior Israeli officials, confirmed that Tokyo had not been asked to join the peace process. Israel views Japan's policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict—calling for the return to the pre-1967 borders—as unbalanced.

When asked whether Japan sought an observer role at the talks, Nakayama replied, "If Japan were asked by countries in the Middle East to participate in the conference as an observer, then it will consider the possibility. The precondition is to receive the request."

Nakayama suggested that his country could help underwrite a regional peace settlement, saying it sees its role as "making international contributions."

When asked whether his country still supports the PLO in light of the organization's support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Nakayama responded tersely: "It is the view of the Japanese government that the PLO represents the Palestinian people."

While Nakayama emphasized the need to improve bilateral relations with Israel and to increase the number of exchanges, he broke little new ground on specifics, including Tokyo's compliance with the Arab boycott. He said the boycott is "undesirable as it blocks free economic exchanges," but said there was little Tokyo could do about it.

When pointedly asked why his government had not submitted legislation against boycott compliance, Nakayama replied, "Government should not intervene in the private sector."

After the interview, Japanese officials took pains to point out that Nakayama did say: "Japan welcomes the Toyota decision (to export cars to Israel)."

Nakayama also said there would be no decision on establishing a direct air link to Japan until a new international airport in Japan is completed in a year or two.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir early in the day, Nakayama spurned an appeal by the premier for his country to engage in a $2 billion multilateral effort to resettle Palestinian refugees living in camps in the territories.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 2 June in a report on pages A1, A2 by Avino'am Bar-Yosef reports that "in an interview to MA'ARIV, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said that 'Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati have agreed that all the hostages should be released, regardless of their nationality. The Iranian officials stated that they are willing to assist in any international effort launched by the countries involved in this issue.'

["During his visit to Tehran, before arriving in Israel, Nakayama was asked through diplomatic channels to discuss the matter of the Israeli hostages held captive in Lebanon."]

Departs, Invites Levi to Tokyo

TA0106190791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1810 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama this evening concluded his tour of Israel and left for Germany. Nakayama met today with Palestinian notables who told him that they believe that Japan can assume a larger role in advancing the peace process. The Japanese minister told them that in his talks in Jerusalem he stressed that Israel must stop its settlements in the territories. This morning Nakayama toured the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. Our correspondent Amir Hay reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] Israeli security forces were not present at the refugee camp, and the visit was held under the auspices of the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency]. The camp was decorated with nationalistic signs and many PLO flags.

The Japanese foreign minister told the camp residents that Japan is seeking a larger role in advancing the political process. [passage omitted]

From al-Duhayshah, the minister went to the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem, where he met 10 Palestinian figures, led by Faysal al-Husayni. According to the Japanese delegation the meeting was meant to acquaint Japan with the Palestinian figures active in the territories. The meeting lasted one hour.

At the beginning of the meeting al-Husayni asked the minister how Japan views its involvement in the political process in the region. Nakayama replied: I came to study the facts. When I get back to Tokyo, my government will form its stand.

The delegation protested the fact that economic relations between Tokyo and Jerusalem have warmed. This must be halted until human rights violations stop in the territories, Ms. Hannan 'Ashrawi demanded. The delegation also asked that Yasir 'Arafat be invited to Tokyo, and it made

clear that the PLO is their sole representative and that the Japanese Government must conduct its contacts with the residents of the territories through the PLO.

Nakayama made no promises, but he that it was possible that 'Arafat might be invited to Tokyo. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 1 June adds: "Nakayama's spokesman summed up the visit with a statement that said Japan is opposed to Israel's settlements in the territories, and it hopes that they be stopped because they create unrest among the Arabs." The report adds that "the Japanese foreign minister invited Foreign Minister Levi for a reciprocal visit to Tokyo."]

'Terrorists' Enter IDF Base Before Being Stopped

TA0106132991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] It becomes apparent now that in this morning's incident in the Jordan Rift Valley in the area of Mehola, two terrorists managed to enter an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost. An IDF force that came to help the outpost soldiers managed to kill one of the infiltrators, while the other fled after throwing away his gun.

One IDF soldier was slightly injured in the leg by our soldiers' fire.

Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, told our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that an investigation is currently under way to find out how the terrorists managed to cross the outpost fence, and why the soldiers there spotted them only after they crossed the fence and entered the outpost yard. Maj. Gen. Yatom said that soldiers should spot hostile elements before they reach the fence.

The commander of the sector will file his recommendations to the command commander whether to try those who neglected their duties. The two terrorists were armed with a Kalashnikov and hand grenades.

In an incident yesterday, an IDF lookout post did not manage to spot an infiltration as well. A Jordanian soldier, armed with a knife and in civilian clothing, was moving along the northern shores of the Dead Sea, hiding from the lookout post, before he reached the Qalya water park. The security personnel of the park became suspicious of the Jordanian and ordered him to halt. He pulled out a knife, but then one of the guards and a soldier overpowered him. Another knife was found in his possession later.

Jordan Said Preventing 'Terrorist' Infiltrations

TA3105111391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 May 91 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] During the course of the past seven weeks, Jordan has managed to prevent several terrorist squads from crossing the border in an attempt to carry out terrorist attacks inside Israel. Senior Israeli sources said yesterday that the resolute warnings voiced by Israel after the Neve-Ur incident on 17 April were heeded by Amman and that the Jordanians have taken "impressive steps" toward closing the gaps along their border with Israel. "The fact that the Muslim Brotherhood, which operates on Jordanian territory and has either inspired or been responsible for all the attacks and attempted attacks, still enjoys a free hand inside the Kingdom proves that the Jordanian Army and the Amman regime are highly effective in intercepting terrorist squads," the elements said.

It was learned yesterday that the "popular army," which had been set up in Jordan on the eve of the Gulf war and which was composed of 200,000 volunteers armed mostly with light weapons, was dispersed over the past weeks. The volunteers' weapons were confiscated, and Jordanian security organizations have been taking strict preventive measures to thwart attacks by squads and individuals. In the past, some of the "popular army" volunteers took advantage of these weapons to cross the Israeli border and to carry out attacks.

It has been learned that Jordan, while preventing terrorist squads from crossing into Israel, remains the launching pad for Palestinian terrorists who try to direct the uprising in the territories from inside the Kingdom. As for King Husayn's position, the senior elements stated that recently he has rehabilitated his status and that his control of the Kingdom is absolute and full. "The eulogies about his demise issued during the Gulf war were premature; the threat to the king's status has been eliminated," said the sources. They added: "Again, Husayn is maneuvering within the Arab system; his previous conduct is gradually being forgotten, and he is now perceived in the United States and the West as the key figure in the political process and particularly in everything related to the Palestinian representation." [passage omitted]

SLA Soldier 'Critically' Wounded in Clash

TA0206173591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was critically wounded in today's clash with a terrorist squad on the security zone border in south Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorist squad had fired from a long distance at an SLA patrol near the village of Hula, critically wounding one SLA soldier. A helicopter evacuated him to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. SLA troops returned fire, and in a subsequent search they found that the terrorists had abandoned their weapons—handguns, a LAW rocket, and explosives—and fled northward.

IDF, SLA Shell 'Terrorist Targets' in Lebanon

TA0206174191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] In the wake of the incident in which an SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was critically wounded by terrorist gunfire this morning, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA guns shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Sources at the UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the shelling lasted two hours and that the gunfire was directed mainly at the Shiite village of Shaqra. Officers from the UN contingent reported that five villagers were gravely wounded, including a 15-year-old girl whose condition was described as critical.

Air Raid Conducted Against Camp East of Sidon

TA0306110791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] This afternoon, Air Force planes raided a terrorist target in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, east of Sidon. The target was destroyed, and all of our planes returned safely to base.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the target served as a launching pad for Fatah attacks against Israel.

King's Stance on Talks With Israel 'Nothing New'

JN0206172891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1708 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian political quarters say that there is nothing new in King Husayn's statement about holding face-to-face talks with Israel, a statement that was followed by an Israeli invitation for King Husayn to visit Jerusalem.

In the absence of official reaction to Israeli officials' comments on King Husayn's statements to the French magazine LE POINT, political sources assert that the contacts King Husayn is calling for come within the framework of international legitimacy and the proposed peace conference. They say that the statement has been understood outside of this context. The same sources assert that, since the U.S. initiative, King Husayn has repeatedly stressed the need to break the stalemate and overcome taboos that should not constitute an obstacle to peace.

Proceeding from the above understanding, Amman has welcomed the James Baker plan to bring about direct Arab-Israeli negotiations within the framework of a peace conference. Amman has also asserted that it is ready to respond to all requirements for a comprehensive peace process, but only within the context of international legitimacy.

No Intention To Revoke Disengagement Decision

JN0106162391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] In Amman, an official Jordanian source has stated that Jordan does not intend to revoke its 1988 decision to disengage administratively and legally from the occupied West Bank. The same source added that Jordan is ready to attend an international peace conference as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the Palestinians so demand. The source stressed that the formation of such a delegation does not require the revocation of the disengagement decision.

Source Calls Bush Plan Step in 'Right Direction'

JN0106161591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] A Jordanian source has said: Despite the fact that competent Jordanian agencies continue to study U.S. President George Bush's proposal in his 29 May speech regarding weapons of mass destruction in the region, the contents of the speech generally fall in line with the ideas that Jordan has been constantly espousing with a view to clearing the region of all these weapons to make it an area free of nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons in particular.

The source recalled Jordan's repeated appeals to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. In a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, the source added: Israel's arms capabilities and refusal to allow the international monitoring of its nuclear installations are factors that constitute a major source of danger and pushes the region toward a serious arms race. Hence, what President Bush proposed can be viewed as a step in the right direction that has to be complemented by real efforts to deal with the huge stockpiles of nuclear and other weapons that Israel's arsenal contains in accordance with uniform standards and criteria.

In this regard, the source questioned the extent President Bush's initiative was in harmony with the consequences of the U.S. defense secretary's visit to Israel. The source noted that if the region is cleared of mass-destruction weapons and all forms of the arms race are ended, it will allow the people of the region to devote their resources to the economic and social development process which so badly needs these resources, within the framework of efforts to establish a lasting and comprehensive peace on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions. Jordan cannot but urge that this issue be dealt with seriously. Meanwhile, strenuous efforts must be made to attain a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question—a settlement that would end regional tension and remove any pretexts for pursuing an arms race, the source concluded. [In a similar but shorter report, Amman Jordan Television Network in French at 1600 GMT characterizes the source as "authoritative."]

Minister Decries U.S.-Israeli 'Unholy Alliance'

JN3105143191

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 0930 GMT on 31 May carries within its relay of the Friday prayers from the King 'Abdallah Mosque in Amman a 24-minute sermon by Shaykh Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs.

After a brief introduction praising the believers who honor their "covenant with God," al-Kilani says that before Islam, the Arabs were in a state of loss because the Roman and Persian empires had dominated the world until God saved the Arabs through Islam. He adds: "Today, the world is under the rule of a single state called the United States of America, which has dominated all other states and established its unholy alliance with the Zionist entity. The victims are Arabs, Islam, and Muslims."

Al-Kilani then criticizes Secretary Cheney's 30 May statement in Israel in which he said that the United States will finance the Israeli Arrow missile project. Al-Kilani adds: "Of course, these Arrow missiles counter the al-Husayn missiles, which were launched from the Baghdad of Arabism and Islam against Israel and which the Patriot missile could not stop but sometimes merged with, making them two missiles in one. They fear the Arabs and Muslims. They fear that after al-Husayn

missiles there will be al-'Abbas missiles. Therefore, they are tightening their grip on Iraq. The Arabs are only spectators. They are now trying to besiege Syria before it achieves any progress. They have eliminated Iraq's military power and now they are bent on eliminating Syria's military strength.

"They are now plotting to prevent any cooperation between Syria and Lebanon. The legitimate Lebanese Government and people want to reach an agreement with the Syrian Government and people for cooperation. This is taboo. As for the cooperation between the Zionist entity in Palestine and the United States, and as for the emigration of world Jewry from all over the world, the Falasha Jews from Abyssinia, and the Jews from Eastern Europe, America, and the USSR, these are different matters."

After elaborating on the closeness of U.S.-Israeli ties, al-Kilani turns to the "lamentable" Arab state of affairs. He says: "In each Arab capital, you find long lines of Arabs seeking a new homeland after their own countries and homelands have rejected them. Look at the lines in front of the U.S. Embassy. They are looking for homelands. The Western, Zionist, and American plots are succeeding in emptying the Arabs' land of its inhabitants and scattering them around the globe while the plotters bring the Jews from the four corners of the world to fight against us in Palestine."

Referring to the situation of Palestinians in Kuwait and other Gulf countries, al-Kilani says: "The Arab is an alien among his Arab brothers. The Palestinian is oppressed among those who have been stripped of their religion, Arabism, Islam, and culture. Those who kill Palestinians in their countries are killing themselves, their history, their glories, and greatness. They are on the side of Shamir, Moshe Arens, and the Jews. May they never enjoy their sleep. May they never receive God's blessings. O enemies of God's messenger to whom you falsely claim to belong, why do you kill the Palestinians? Have they not had enough at the hands of the Jews?"

Addressing these Arabs further, he says: "Do not think that the U.S. flag will strengthen you. Repent, ask forgiveness from God, and honor these Palestinians and stop harming them."

He laments the conditions of the Arabs and make an impassioned protest against Israel's "plan to Judaize" areas around Jerusalem, noting U.S. "lies" about human rights.

Al-Kilani then calls for preparing the people and training them to fight the enemy, and calls for Arab unity against Israel. He says: "When we call for jihad, we do not mean that youths of tender age steal their way to the [Jordan] river to be shot down like small birds. This is not our call for jihad." He adds: "Jihad is meant for the able recruit who is an adult, well-trained, and able-bodied. What we mean is that the people should not be left like sheep, awaiting an Israeli attack, and then wake up when it is too late."

He then calls for effective training and Arab unity "because we cannot wage the battle alone when America and Israel are in one trench."

Invoking Koranic verses, al-Kilani then concludes his sermon by advising the people to work in every way to strengthen themselves and their nation.

Papers React to Recent U.S. Moves in Region

Arms Control Plan Criticized

JN3105120191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
31 May 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "U.S. Plan To Maintain Israel's Strategic Superiority"]

[Text] It seems that the U.S. plan, which Washington claims seeks to control the arms race in the Middle East, is no more than an episode of American intervention in the region, triggered by the Gulf war, whose real objective is to maintain Israel's strategic superiority. The points of the plan on nonconventional weapons do not directly or indirectly refer to the Israeli arsenal, teeming with nuclear and biological weapons, which Israel has been refusing to open to international inspection. Moreover, the plan's points on conventional weapons will not affect Israel thanks to its strategic cooperation with the United States which produced advanced military industries in the Zionist entity with U.S. assistance. There will be no control measure covering these industries. In addition, the announcement of the plan was accompanied by another announcement that contradicts the alleged objectives, as seen in the U.S. decisions to provide Israel with 10 F-15 aircraft and to continue cooperation with Israel to develop Israel's "Arrow" missile, which is said to be an antimissile missile.

It is noted that the U.S. plan took pains to include a call for a region free of missiles with a range able to reach Israel. Hence, it is very clear that the Zionist entity's experience with the Iraqi missiles is the basis for this call!

If this plan is implemented, it will result in preventing Arabs from importing weapons that would enable them to attain strategic balance with the Israeli aggressors. The aggressors' arsenal, however, will remain as it is, or, rather, it will certainly receive more U.S. weapons similar to the 10 F-15 aircraft and others. By this, Washington guarantees Israel's strategic superiority in the region.

We must recall that the U.S. plan follows an Israeli campaign against Syria similar to the propaganda campaign Iraq was subjected to prior to the Gulf war. This recent campaign claims that there can be no security for Israel while Syria continues to possess missiles, and it was accompanied by allegations that Algeria was preparing to manufacture nuclear weapons!

The series of events beginning with the elimination of Iraq's military power, and the current attempts to wipe it

out economically, followed by the emergence of the U.S. plan, which seeks to prevent Arabs from acquiring missiles able to reach Israel and which bans the supply of weapons that would enable them to attain strategic balance with Israel, all clearly point to a strong link of these steps and to the real objective, which is to prepare the region for Israeli hegemony.

It is strange that the U.S. plan followed in the wake of the obstacles Israel placed before Baker during his tour of the region, as well as Israel's no's, which prevented the progress of the peace march, as if Washington were rewarding the Israeli aggressors in appreciation of their intransigence and obstruction of the peace process! In light of all this, one may wonder what the situation would be like if Washington imposes its plan, which preserves Israel's strategic superiority, what peace would be established in such a situation, and what trust would the Arabs have in the credibility of the U.S. intentions toward them.

The recent U.S. plan comprises the chains with which Washington wants to shackle the Arab body. Arabs will see a great deal of what is in store for them if they do not shake off the memories of the Gulf crisis and close ranks to confront the challenges that threaten them all.

Peace Chance Called 'Remote'

JN0106090791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jun 91 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "The Jewels in the Crown"]

[Text] Days after the declaration of the U.S. initiative, which allegedly is aimed at stopping the arms race in the region, and rather than Washington confirming that this will not exclude Israel's nuclear weapons, a U.S. official stated that these weapons are the jewels in Israel's crown. Clearly, he intended to portray the Israeli military arsenal as Israel's crown and the weapons of mass destruction included in this arsenal as the jewels in this crown.

Attention was also drawn to the U.S. defense minister's declaration once again before leaving Tel Aviv yesterday that the United States still adheres to its pledge to preserve Israeli military superiority and that U.S. weapons are being stockpiled in the Zionist entity as a precaution against any war that might flare up in the region.

And, amid this atmosphere loaded with extreme defiance of the entire Arab nation, Shamir renewed his pledge not to abandon one inch of land. Washington, therefore, has clearly and frankly declared that its real objective is to maintain Israeli strategic superiority. Faced with such a situation, there is nothing left for the Arabs to do but ask themselves what they can do about this defiance that threatens them all.

The Arabs believed peace would be the crown in which they could take pride and its jewels would be justice. There are huge differences between this understanding and the opposite understanding expressed by the U.S. official. Undoubtedly, the huge gap between what the Arabs believe and what Washington believes makes true peace in the region remote. It also means there is a huge gap between Washington's alleged concern to restore peace in the region and its announced plan to preserve Israel's strategic superiority.

Indications suggest that the United States is now caught up in a race with time to strip the Arabs of their power and force them to yield to Israeli hegemony. The Arabs need to race with time to regain their solidarity and to prevent becoming an easy morsel presented by Washington to Israel on a silver platter. A difficult future awaits the Arabs if they go on like this. And a difficult future awaits the region within the framework of the U.S. understanding which considers oppressive force to be the crown and weapons of mass destruction its jewels.

U.S. Moves Seen as 'Mockery'

JN0106130891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Jun 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Cheney's Statements Tear Apart Bush's Initiative on Armament"]

[Text] The only way we can understand U.S. President Bush's initiative on arms control in the Middle East is determination on Washington's part to strip the Arabs of all the weapons they need to safeguard their security, and to maintain Israel as the only militarily competent state in the region, teeming with the most modern weapons, and with clear and brazen support from the United States. In fact, it seems the Zionist entity is inherently excluded from President Bush's initiative.

How can we believe the seriousness of such an initiative while hearing U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney's statements, almost at the same time as his president announced the initiative, affirming in Israel his administration's principle to establish the strongest cooperation ties and strategic military alliance with Israel.

This really is a ridiculous farce. Bush announces the initiative on arms limitation and Cheney responds by announcing that Israel will be provided with 10 F-15 advanced fighter planes and that Washington agrees to finance around 72 percent of the costs of the coming stage of the development of the Arrow antimissile missile, whose cost amounts to over $300 million. What is more dangerous is that Cheney clearly announced to the Arabs and the whole world before leaving Tel Aviv for Egypt that the United States is currently stockpiling military equipment in Israel to confront what he termed the possibility of any war erupting in the future.

The greater mockery than all of this is that the U.S. defense secretary sets Israel's mind at ease by saying that President Bush's initiative regarding mass-destruction weapons aims only to guarantee Israel's security and also to make it prosperous.

After these clarifications, is there any other explanation for all U.S. efforts and activities in the region other than to besiege the Arab nation and open wide the door for Zionist expansionism, which is now gathering Jewish emigrants in an unprecedented manner from all over the world, and at a time when Shamir has announced that Israel must raise a generation that does not believe in relinquishing one handful of soil.

In light of these crystal clear facts, we believe that the U.S. Administration is not really serious about achieving just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy. The U.S. initiative, which has exploited public opinion during the past few months, was, it now seems, preparation for disarming only the Arabs, and allowing Israel to possess nuclear weapons which Bush's initiative did not refer to, not to mention the latest destructive weapons the United States is providing it with.

The United States is quickly working to exploit the results of the Gulf war to implement against the Arab countries what it implemented against Iraq—that is, eliminating its defensive weapons and thereby imposing a surrender on the Arab nation.

Cheney's statements practically blow apart President Bush's initiative, and, of course, he does not act in isolation of his president's will.

Process 'Continues To Ripen'

JN0306111491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jun 91 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Once Again, the U.S. Initiative Has Not Failed"]

[Text] In a previous article in this column, we said that the American settlement process has not stopped; that Bush's initiative has not entered a blind alley; and that Baker's four tours of the region did not fail.

We also said that the settlement process is being cooked very slowly on low heat.

As for the hardline policies of Israel, Syria, or the PLO, not for a single moment could they stop, paralyze, or abort the U.S. initiative, which has received unlimited public Soviet support with no reservations.

The U.S. Administration knows how to deal with the parties involved in the conflict. It knows how to placate or pressure them. It knows the keys that can unlock their problems.

If the U.S. Administration is determined to realize a settlement, then it is capable of doing so.

As we said earlier, this settlement does not have to be in favor of the Palestinians or the Arabs, equally it does not have to be totally convincing to Israel or responsive to all its conditions. It could be any settlement.

After the Gulf war, the disintegration of the socialist bloc countries, the infiltration of U.S. security, economic, and political influences into the Soviet Union, and the recognition by all countries that the United States is the strongest and most competent power, we do not believe that the United States needs a trick or a special means to surmount the Israeli obstacle before a settlement or to force it to accept it.

Amid this deteriorating Arab atmosphere replete with differences, divisions, national and regional isolation, and racing to join the American trench, we do not believe there is a single Arab country that can publicly declare its opposition to and rejection of the U.S. Administration and its initiatives with sufficient clarity and frankness to thwart them.

Bush's recent message to President al-Asad, which Baker handed to al-Shar' last Thursday in the Portuguese capital, was described by Damascus as a step forward in the peace process.

Al-Shar' said before his meeting with Bessmertnykh that his meeting with Baker in Lisbon was important and satisfactory.

As for Bessmertnykh, who met with Baker, he affirmed that there will soon be intense U.S.-Soviet activity and that he is optimistic about the possibility of pushing the peace process forward.

Therefore, we could say that the U.S. peace process continues to ripen.

The hardline Israeli, PLO, or Syrian policies could become more lenient and take on a more flexible nature in a way that will not hamper or thwart the U.S. settlement.

This is because the U.S. economic, political, and security interests and plans in the region necessitate achieving a settlement whatever the circumstances.

Treaty of Brotherhood Finalized With Syria

Syrian Delegation Arrives

NC0306090391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] The Syrian delegation comprising Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah, Economy Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi, Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur arrived at the Park Hotel in Shtawrah at 1020 today. The delegation was welcomed on arrival at the hotel by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib, Economy and Trade Minister Marwan Hamadah, Hydroelectric Resources Minister Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, Information Minister Dr. Albert Mansur, and Minister of State Nicola al-Khuri.

The Syrian delegation arrived at al-Masna', at the Syrian-Lebanese border, at 1000 today. The delegation was welcomed there by Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas; Ambassador Jihad Murtada; Zafir al-Hasan, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry; Director of Protocol Riyad al-Qantar; and Albert 'Asi, the director of Lebanon's office in Damascus.

The Syrian delegation is accompanied by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Munif al-Rifa'i, director of the International Organizations Department; Taha Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Affairs Department; and Director of Protocol Riyad Siyaj.

The Syrian and Lebanese delegations are scheduled to leave for the Foreign Ministry in al-Ashrafiyah shortly, where the ceremony for exchanging the instruments of ratification of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty between the foreign ministers of the two countries will take place. The two will then deliver speeches on this occasion. The two delegations will then proceed to the provisional presidential office and meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who will hold a luncheon in honor of the guests.

Foreign Ministers Speak

NC0306114191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' exchanged documents of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two countries in the presence of Lebanese and Syrian delegations at the provisional presidential headquarters in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' at noon today.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz gave a speech on the occasion. He said the Lebanese-Syrian treaty is merely a natural translation of a natural situation between two countries who share a history full of joint actions. He added: This treaty, which emanates from our free will, involves cooperation and coordination between Lebanon and Syria, based on both countries' independence, sovereignty, and characteristics. He went on: This treaty is not an option as much as it is a destiny. Let everyone know that those who oppose it have not read history, geography, or the treaty very well.

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: This is a historic moment in which we exchange the Syrian-Lebanese treaty documents. We are deeply satisfied, but not because this treaty supplies anything that has been missing between the two fraternal countries. Relations between our two countries are as old as history, and no foreign force has been able to break these close relations. We are satisfied because Lebanon has ended a tragic phase of its history, which affected various sectors of our Lebanese brothers.

Al-Shar' added: These days, we travel between Beirut's two sectors without difficulty. We are happy because Beirut has united, and the Lebanese Army has united. These are two great accomplishments. We are satisfied not because this treaty is a breakthrough but because it coincided with hard Arab circumstances in which our Arab nation lived as a consequence of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This occupation caused disunity in the Arab fold and the destruction of the capabilities of two fraternal countries.

SLA Lists Conditions for Handing Over Weapons

NC0306084891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] radio says the SLA will not lay down its arms until independence has been restored to Lebanon. It added that implementation of Resolution 425 is linked to the Middle East issue and Israel's security requirements.

The radio also notes that Palestinian weapons are still in Lebanon. These weapons will not be withdrawn unless the Palestinian issue is resolved, but this is impossible.

Israelis Send Reinforcements Into Border Zone

Armored Vehicles Deployed

NC0106121091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces continued to reinforce their military positions in the occupied border strip today. The occupation forces brought in armored vehicles last night and deployed them at the forward positions in Tallat 'Ayn Qinya, Hursh Shwayya, and the Zummarayya crossing point. They also had armored patrols in the villages and on the main roads, set up permanent and mobile roadblocks, and banned farmers of Libbaya from going to their farms.

'Intensive' Movements Reported

NC0206051591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] correspondent has cited reports from the occupied border strip that intensive Israeli military movements have been taking place over the past two days. The correspondent added that the Israeli buildup and preparations substantiate reports that the enemy might initiate a wide-scale military operation in the liberated areas.

The NNA correspondent said that security sources in the strip have expressed their fears that the enemy might cross the southern coastal line up to Sidon in a bid to torpedo the treaty between Lebanon and Syria and to undermine the Palestinian stand in any possible negotiations in the Middle East crisis.

Fighting Reported East of Sidon 2 Jun

NC0206111291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Intermittent fighting has been raging between the Popular Liberation Army—the forces of martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd—and agent Lahd militia men along the combat lines of Kafr Falus and 'Ayn al-Mir, east of Sidon since 0930 today.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters flew over the southern coast at 0200 today.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC0206164291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] The Lebanese National Islamic Resistance movement has said that its fighters ambushed a joint patrol of Israeli soldiers and members of their agent militia today in the south Lebanon village of Hula, less than 2 km from the Lebanese-Palestinian border.

In its statement, the movement said the fierce fighting that ensued after one of its units opened fire at the patrol left four soldiers dead and a number of others wounded. The statement added that Israeli helicopters later shelled the area during a search for the fedayeen.

Israeli Shelling, Situation in Shaqra Detailed

NC0206202091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] The Israeli shelling of the town of Shaqra and vicinity stopped at 1530 today, after several people were wounded and many houses were damaged.

Those wounded, who include Insaf al-Zayn, 35; Dalal 'Awadah, 15; Fida' 'Awadah, 16; and Najwa 'Abd-al-Nabi, 4, were taken to Tibnih hospital.

Among the damaged houses were those belonging to Thabit Muhammad al-Amin, Ibrahim Zayn al-Amin, 'Ali Mahdi al-Amin, and 'Ali 'Awadah. Several cars were also destroyed.

Many of the town's inhabitants have fled to villages in Tyre district, fearing renewed enemy shelling.

Israeli Planes Bomb Palestinian Camp Near Sidon

NC0306112391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] The Israeli forces have continued their aggression against the liberated areas of the south. AFP reported that Israeli aircraft carried out an air raid against the Palestinian al-Miyah wa Miyah camp near Sidon at noon today. It has also been reported that two combat airplanes bombed the road between (Mukhayyim) and 'Ayn al-Hulwah while two other planes provided cover for them.

A short time ago REUTER reported that the air raid was directed against a military intelligence center belonging to Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah Movement. The agency said that according to preliminary reports, there were no less than five casualties. No details were known about these casualties.

Lieutenant Colonel Kamal Midhat is in charge of the intelligence center in question.

The raiding planes were confronted with antiaircraft fire.

Israeli warplanes have launched 11 air raids against targets in Lebanon since the beginning of 1991, resulting in 13 people dead and 74 others wounded.

Al-Asad Receives Italian Senator in Damascus

JN0206162291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Italian Senate delegation led by Senator Achille Micheli, chairman of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee. Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Italian ambassador in Damascus attended.

The meeting dealt with the conditions in the region and the ideas proposed to activate the peace process. The president stressed that Syria wanted a just and comprehensive peace and was concerned about respect for international legitimacy. He also stressed that Syria hoped the efforts made for peace were serious and sincere. He said Syria welcomed an effective European role in the efforts to establish a just peace in accordance with UN resolutions.

Al-Shar' Comments on Bush's Arms Control Plan

JN3105181091 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that Syria is still studying the U.S. ideas on the supervision of armament in the region in spite of the fact that it appears from the very first reading that these ideas will, if implemented, enhance Israel's military superiority generally and the qualitative military superiority more specifically. These ideas will also inflict grave damage to Arab interests. They will also produce far-reaching perils to pan-Arab security now and in the future, especially since the U.S. ideas include the Arab countries from the remotest part of the Arab East to the remotest part of the Arab Maghreb. Al-Shar' added: The world should know and always remember that Israel produces in its factories all types of weapons—mass destruction or conventional—while the Arabs do not have such a capability. What draws attention are the agreements that Israel has been concluding now and the efforts it has been exerting, particularly these days by importing and stockpiling weapons or in producing and developing them.

The foreign minister added: We seriously believe that the matter will be more realistic and more beneficial and fair to the international community if international efforts are made to attain peace on the bases of UN resolutions, a peace that will, in its turn, bring about a reduction of weapons and a lessening of the threats they pose. In any case, it is logical and of interest that these or other ideas about armament be submitted in an atmosphere of peace, not of war and the continued occupation, as is the case now, because peace constitutes a fertile ground for success. In any event, the Arab nation will not accept what it believes poses a threat to its security and interests.

Faruq al-Shar' will arrive in Lisbon tomorrow, Saturday, where he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The two ministers will discuss efforts under way to convene a conference for peace in the Middle East. Al-Shar' will also meet with USSR Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, who is visiting Portugal.

Al-Shar' Returns From Lisbon, Stopover in Tunis

JN0206094591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this morning after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Lisbon, and after receiving from Baker a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from U.S. President George Bush. Al-Shar' also held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexandr Bessmertnykh.

On his way home al-Shar' met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya at Tunis Airport. The talks focused on the latest developments in the region and the international efforts to hold a peace conference.

Newspapers View American Arms Control Plan

JN0206074791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Who Works for Peace and Who Works Against It?," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that the Middle East region needs peace much more than weapons. The attainment of peace will provide a suitable climate for eliminating weapons rather than stockpiling them, the paper adds.

AL-BA'TH calls for making serious and real efforts to lay the groundwork that will help the region attain peace, rather than the opposite. AL-BA'TH goes on to say: As is clear to all, Israel does not want a true peace in the region. This is because there is no doubt that it views true peace as something that moves against its objectives and expansionist schemes which it advocates and insists on implementing, the objectives and schemes regarding the establishment of a greater Israel extending from the Euphrates to the Nile. Everybody should know that Israel is currently preoccupied with two key issues—namely, bringing in the largest number of Jews to occupied Palestine and settling them in the occupied Arab territories, and the acquisition of sophisticated weaponry as well as the funds required to manufacture weapons, either individually or through joint endeavors with others. It goes without saying that such orientations can in no way fall in line with what is being said here or there about the need for a convocation of a peace conference that would resolve regional problems once and for all.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: While speaking of peace and the need for it, we should note here that arming Israel in this open manner certainly does not serve the peace process. This encourages Israel to adopt a more intransigent stand. We do not rule out the possibility that Israel might exploit this situation to

launch a new military action against the Arab nation. And here we would like to point out that he who wants a just peace in the region should apply what needs to be applied against Israel to make it succumb to international resolutions and international legitimacy.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the same issue and says: Undoubtedly, the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region constitutes a strong and objective foundation for ending all manifestations of tension and turmoil, which if the peace process fails to be advanced, will overpower the quiet and cause the situation to explode and thus increase the chances of war. There can be no middle ground between peace and war. Peace cannot be established as long as the Israeli occupation is maintained and as long as the Israeli complications and no's, which are numerous, are maintained to torpedo the current international efforts, out of a rejectionist approach opposing peace.

In its editorial, TISHRIN points out that the American ideas on arms control consecrate the Israeli superiority and tip the balance of power in favor of the Israeli expansionist drive, especially considering that Israel produces and stores conventional as well as nonconventional weapons. It is clear here that the failure to tackle the crux and essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is the Israeli occupation and its dismantlement on the one hand and the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights on the other, will not ensure the success of the peace process which must consider ways to deter the Israeli aggressor and curb his terrorist and racist practices, the paper adds.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Out of a strong eagerness to achieve peace, Syria which espouses the clearest positions, has affirmed that it will be more realistic, fairer, and beneficial for the international community if efforts are made to achieve peace in the region on the basis of UN resolutions, since this would consequently lead to eliminating weapons and the dangers that they pose.

Under the headline "Only Peace Produces Arms Reduction," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries that the American ideas on arms control in the region cause immense harm to Arab interests. Also, these ideas pose long-term dangers to the Arab nation's pan-Arab security at present and in the future. Moreover, these ideas will enhance the Israeli military superiority, quantitatively and qualitatively speaking, the paper adds.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Therefore, everybody believes that these American ideas are ill-timed. This is because the world efforts, especially those made by the United States, currently focus on launching a settlement process in the region to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions in general, and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in particular.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Therefore, the U.S. Administration should have redoubled efforts and intensified contacts to launch a process aimed at achieving a just regional settlement based on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination. Only a just and comprehensive peace can reduce arms and the dangers they pose.